Ann Arbor Observer

January 2007

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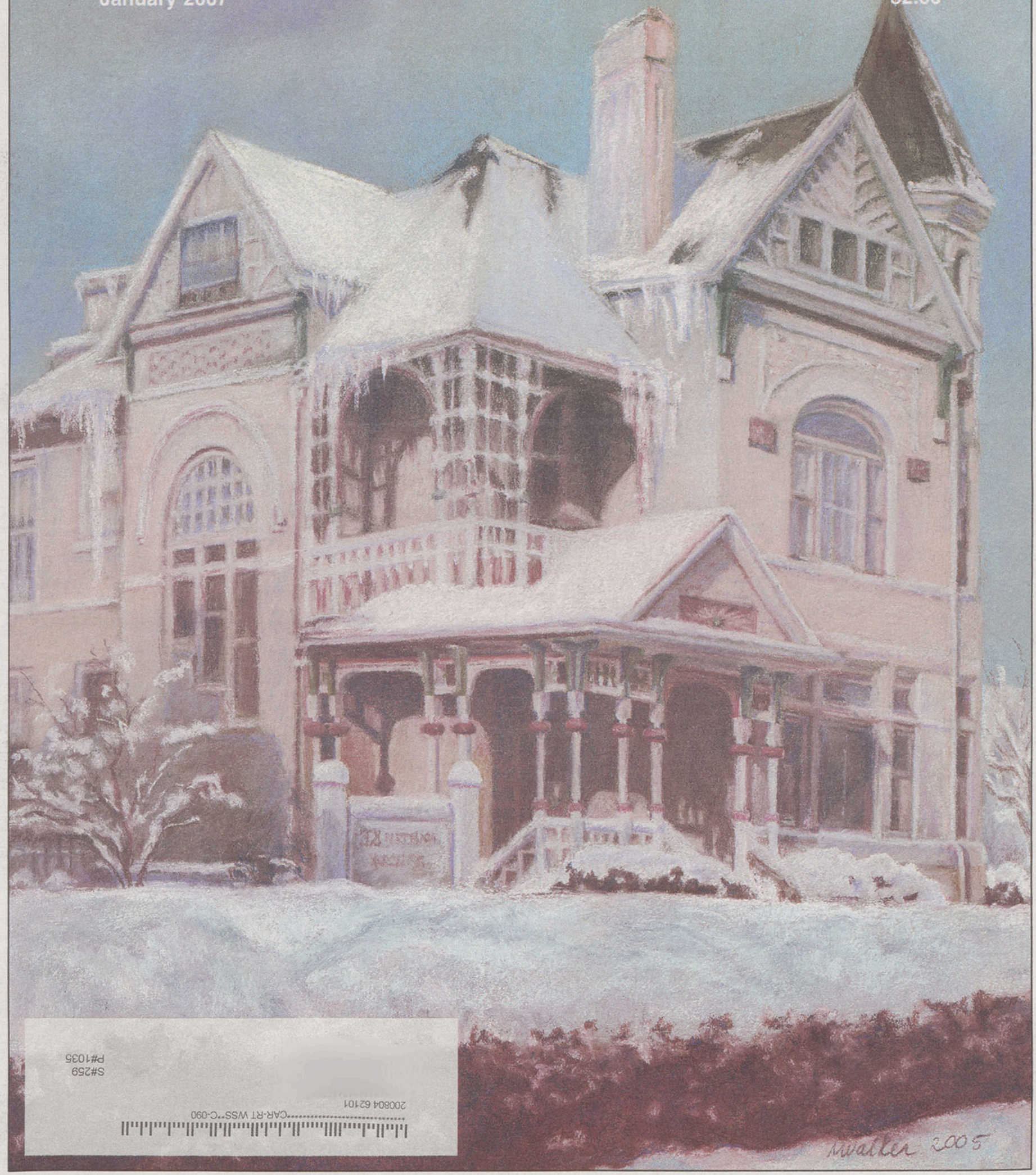

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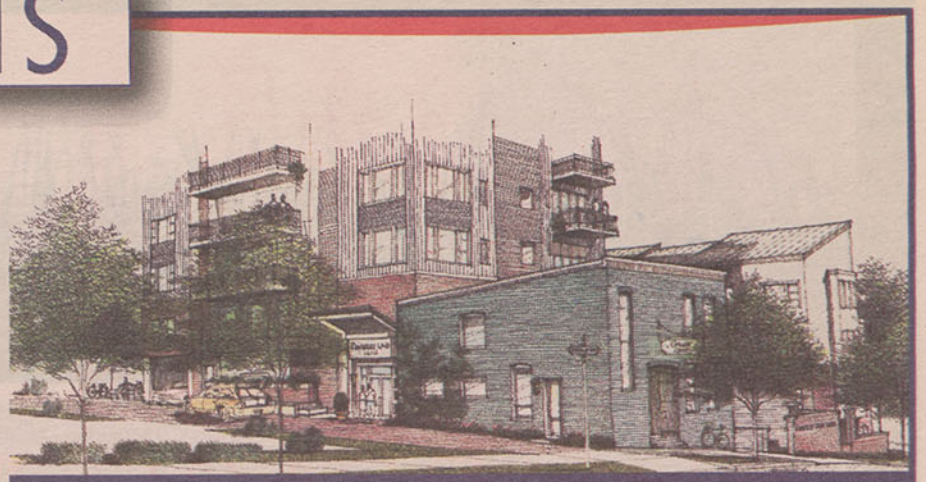

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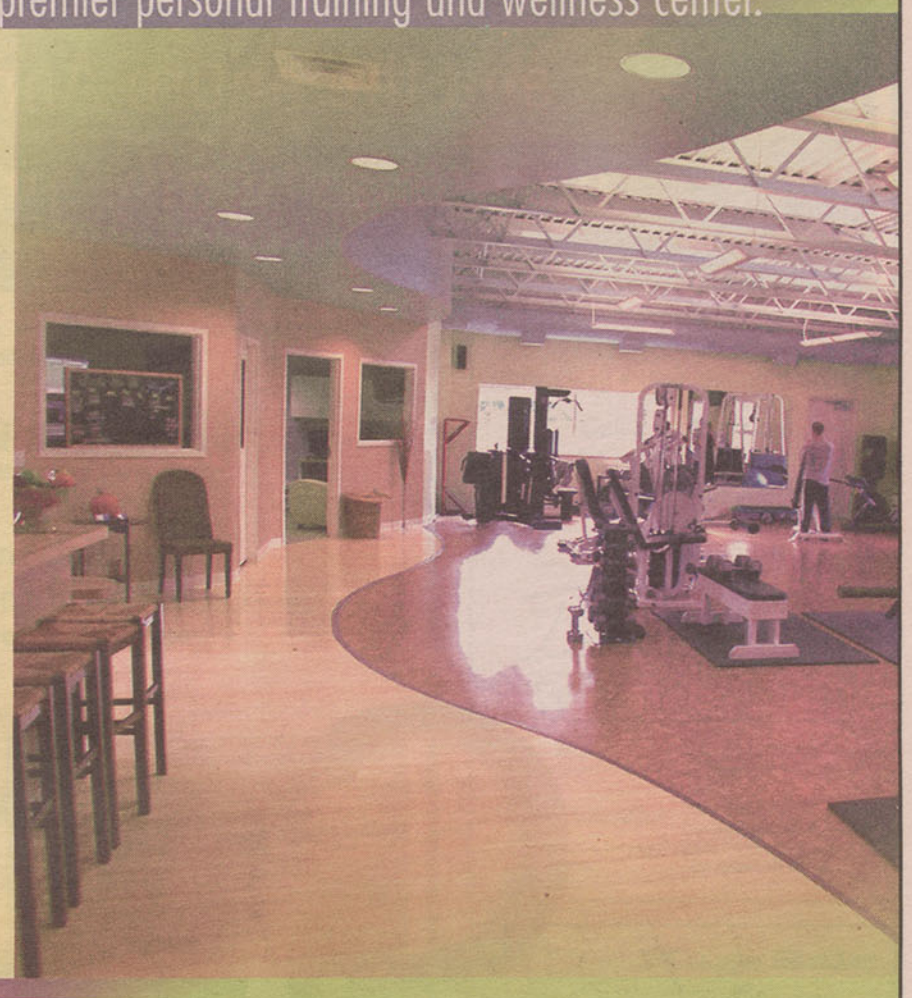

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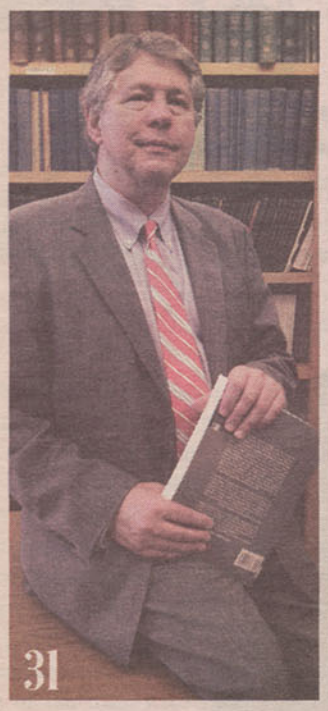
Ann Arbor Observer

January 2007 vol. 31 • no. 5

Cover: *The Queen Anne House at Ingalls and Lawrence.* Pastel painting by Marti Walker.



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See p. 96 for details

Working on the railroad: Although housed in fully functional railroad cars, Ann Arbor–based Artrain USA, like any other nonprofit museum, runs on a

tight budget. Towns hosting an Artrain visit agree to feed and house the staff while the rolling art museum is in town—with the side benefit that Artrain's staff get a glimpse into the idiosyncratic everyday beauty of the communities they visit. Ann Arbor artist Jason Polan (whose giant ants mural marches across the wall opposite the entrance to the Maynard Street parking structure) is currently back home during one of the train's rare stops at its home base (see review, Events, p. 61). For the past year, he and the train have traveled throughout the West. Polan did a little of everything, from working the door and gift shop to visiting schools and doing art demonstrations—and along the way, he stayed with yoga-hipster four-year-olds in Milwaukie, Oregon, chatted over tacos with shark-wrestling elementary schoolers in Nenana, Alaska, and shot pool with Linda, the librarian of Skykomish, Washington. Despite the town's population of just 217, he says, the Skykomish Artrain stop—organized by Linda—drew more than 1,200 visitors. Furthermore, the local bar is a shrine to the modest librarian's billiard acumen, housing her hundreds of trophies and championship photos. As the bar closed one evening, Polan watched the mild-mannered woman halt a brewing bar fight by sheer power of scolding. Apparently sorting out shoestring marketing budgets, tricky bank shots, and beer-fueled squabbles are all a regular part of the librarian's art in the Pacific Northwest.

That giant bug: Ann Arbor has a decidedly more urban feel now that the AATA buses are sporting advertisements. For the past ten years there had been no advertising on the buses, a policy adopted by the board of directors to keep the clean lines of the vehicles uncluttered. But last year, increasingly tight budgets forced them to reconsider. Southfield-based Transit Advertising Group won the bid by

guaranteeing a minimum of $84,000 in revenue for the first year. The most expensive ads are "wraps" that cover the whole bus—like the Griffin Pest Solutions ad in which a human bug-eyed screaming face is juxtaposed with a humongous cockroach. Griffin paid $3,000 to produce the wrap, plus an additional $3,200 for every four weeks it's on the road. Too much? At the back of the bus, a "tail" ad costs $125 to produce and then $500 to run for four weeks.

MRI by moonlight: "We don't really do 24/7 MRIs," says Erin Butler, the MRI service delivery leader for the Saint Joseph Mercy Health System. "We offer them twenty-four hours a day, five days a week—and sixteen hours a day on the weekends." St. Joe's has been offering MRIs at odd hours for several years. "Ca-

pacity drove us to do this, but we were pleasantly surprised" by the response, Butler says—so much so that they've added a second scanner to the midnight shift a few nights a week. "We usually have a cluster around 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. These are people who work an afternoon shift and come after work," she explains. "Then there's usually a gap for a few hours, and it will pick up again from 4 to 7 a.m., with people coming in before work." Daytime hours are reserved for difficult cases where a radiologist must be on hand to read the results—though even that is changing as St. Joe's implements a new system that allows radiologists to view files from home. What do patients think when they're given a 3 a.m. appointment? Butler turns the question upside down. "If you were calling right now to say you needed a routine knee MRI, we could get you in today," she replies. "Yes, at 3 a.m., probably."

Wriggler recycling: What eats at least three times its weight a week—most of it garbage—and has gardeners gushing about its excrement? It's a red worm, or red wriggler—a type of earthworm that transforms food scraps into nutrient-rich fertilizer. And the biggest local vermicomposter (*vermis* is Latin for "worm") is the U-M. A student organization called cUltivating coMmunity (get it?) installed worm bins at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens in 2005 as part of an effort to create a closed food system. Food-prep scraps

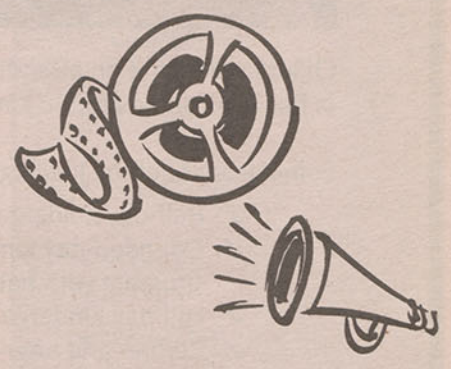
from the kitchen at the University Club are fed to worms at the garden's vermicomposts; harvested worm castings fertilize university garden plots; and the vegetables and herbs grown in the plots are in turn served in dishes prepared at the club. The worms started out salvaging an estimated 5 to 10 percent of the sixty-three tons of "green bin" food-prep waste discarded each year by campus kitchens. Now, says former cUltivating coMmunity coordinator Julie Cotton, the program is aiming to vermicompost one-third of that total—"and we hope eventually all."

First fools: "I think Ann Arbor needs a downscale event," says Mark Tucker. So in late January, he's inviting anyone who's interested to join his U-M students in a garage on Felch—where they'll build some giant puppets. Lately Tucker's "Arts on the Hill" students created bright multipanel murals at Lucky Kitchen and the U-M Undergraduate Science Building. Years ago, though, he worked for Detroit's Thanksgiving parade, where he made huge puppet heads of famous Detroiters like Coleman Young and Walter Reuther. Now he wants to bring together people of differ-

ent backgrounds to launch a creative parade in Ann Arbor. The plan is to build thirty to fifty person-size puppets and send them dancing and sashaying down Main Street at dusk on April Fools' Day.

No one knows yet what "wild things" to expect in the "First Fools Parade," but after looking at images he's collected from singular events and the world, one can imagine a life-size George Bush or Hillary Clinton—or a green monster. He's raised the event's $18,000 budget ("We're talking clay, plaster, newspaper, and flour and sticks," he says) largely from various university grants and funds. Three U-M classes are already signed up, but the group is seeking more volunteers—no puppetry experience required. E-mail startproject@umich, or call Tucker at 615–8648.

An actor's life: A few days before Thanksgiving, Ann Arborite Mike Kelly—actor, model, and stand-up comedian—was among the extras at St. John's Macomb Hospital in Warren, where the movie *Ocean of Pearls* was being filmed. He'd been called in by the Talent Shop, one of four Detroit-area agencies that represent him, and told that he should dress "formal business" and would be playing a doctor. The shoot was scheduled for 4 p.m. and rescheduled for 7 when actor Dennis Haskins (aka principal Richard Belding in *Saved by the Bell*) missed his flight to Detroit. Kelly arrived at 6:30 to find that a water main under the hospital had just broken but was asked to stay and wait. It



was 10:30 before the mess was cleaned up and filming actually got under way. He was released at 2:30 a.m., pleased that he had gotten into some scenes.

Kelly, who gives his age as "I play twenty-five to thirty-five," seemed perfectly fresh and composed the next day, though he was planning to call the Talent Shop to see whether he could wring a bit more money out of them for his late night—his day's work paid just $64 after the agency took its 20 percent commission. Less than twelve hours after leaving the hospital shoot, he had already done two auditions and was on the way to a voice-over gig. "You might mention that I do voice-overs?" he asked hopefully from his cell phone in his car. "I sure would like to find some voice-over work in Ann Arbor."

What does it cost?

$85—facial for men, at Pamela's Hair Salon & Day Spa

$90—on-site portrait shoot (your choice of standard sitting or "environmental" shot), from U-M Photo Services

$217.50—auction price in December for a photo postcard by A. S. Lyndon showing the 1909 U-M football team on Ferry Field, on eBay

$10—three copies of the Holy Qur'an, at Mediterranean Market

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Kindergarten Roundups!

Children planning on attending kindergarten in the Ann Arbor Public Schools starting in fall 2007 are invited to kindergarten roundups.

Come hear about the kindergarten options available in the Ann Arbor district, including:

- ✓ Half-day kindergarten
- ✓ Extended-day kindergarten—half-day kindergarten program with half-day child care with the same teacher
- ✓ Full-day kindergarten at some schools
- ✓ Before- and after-school care

Each school holds a kindergarten roundup. If you have questions about your child's school, please call 994-2236 or go to the district's web site, **www.aaps.k12.mi.us,** and log in your street name to find out your child's elementary school.

Abbot	2/20/07	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Allen	2/22/07	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Angell	3/8/07	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor Open	2/20/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Ann Arbor Open	3/10/07	10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Ann Arbor Open	3/18/07	2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Bach	2/22/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Bryant	2/2/07	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Bryant	2/8/07	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Burns Park	2/21/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Carpenter	2/13/07	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Dicken	3/6/07	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Eberwhite	2/20/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Haisley	2/7/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
King	2/15/07	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Lakewood	2/20/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Lawton	2/19/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Logan	2/8/07	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Mitchell	3/8/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Northside	2/7/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Pittsfield	2/22/07	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Thurston	3/8/07	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wines	3/8/07	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Kindergarten roundup is primarily an informational meeting for parents. Some schools have planned activities for students and/or optional child care. Please contact the individual schools for more details.

Middle School Restructuring UPDATE

Why?

The Ann Arbor Public Schools is faced with the ongoing task of addressing budget deficits, as all school districts in the state struggle with the realities of state funding limitations. AAPS faces a deficit of approximately $11 million over the next two years. In order to address the projected deficit, we need to examine how we can reduce costs in all areas of the district. As we look to reduce costs we must make sure we do so in a comprehensive manner to ensure that we maintain outstanding programs for our students in AAPS.

Part of this process includes an assessment of our middle school programs. The middle school experience for Ann Arbor students has always been one that focuses on the ever-evolving adolescent years by providing students with the ability to further develop and prepare in core academic areas while exploring a variety of curriculum areas as they prepare for high school.

Currently our middle school programs have the highest per pupil instructional costs of any level. We hope to be able to reduce costs in the middle school programs by $2–$2.3 million. While reducing costs is always difficult, we are also looking for ways to improve the educational experience for our middle school students. We are optimistic that we can accomplish our goals.

Look for further updates at **www.a2schools.org.** Community meetings will take place soon. The notice of these meetings will be on the web site as soon as they are scheduled and sent home with students.

Ann Arbor Public Schools Communications Office • 734-994-2236 • www.aaps.k12.mi.us

Crooks Beware

After winning a yearlong battle over sheriff's patrols, the county is expanding its overcrowded jail.

In December 2005, eleven townships signed new four-year contracts for police services—grudgingly, because the contracts raised the price per deputy from $80,000 to $130,000 a year. But Ypsilanti, Augusta, and Salem townships held out.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Deputy Craig Harvey patrols Ypsi Township last year. With layoffs looming, the township finally signed a new contract last month.

They refused to sign the contracts, took the county to court—and defeated three commissioners in last August's primary.

The holdouts finally signed on December 6, only hours before the county was set to lay off fifty-one sheriff's deputies. "It's really, really, really good news," said Ypsilanti Township supervisor Ruth Ann Jamnick that morning. "Our board was unanimous [in approving the contract]." But Jamnick's predecessor—and newly elected county commissioner—Karen Lovejoy Roe suggests the battle is far from over.

"With the change of the board," Lovejoy Roe predicts, "there'll be more support for [subsidizing] the sheriff's services out of the general fund." And as far as Lovejoy Roe is concerned, that money should come from the county human services budget. "Public safety is a human service, too, the most basic human service," she argues. "If you don't have that, you don't have anything."

Commissioners from communities with their own police departments beg to differ. Residents of Ann Arbor, the city of Ypsilanti, and Pittsfield Township see no reason why they should also pay for the forty-four deputies patrolling Ypsilanti Township. "I expect them [the new commissioners] to take a run at it," says Ann Arbor commissioner Jeff Irwin. "But to change the contract, they've going to have to convince the rest of the county to support that one jurisdiction."

Even Lovejoy Roe's allies—the other two newly elected commissioners—seem uncertain about continuing the fight. Jessica Ping Mills agrees with Lovejoy Roe that "public safety is the number-one issue"—but she adds that the holdouts hurt themselves by reneging on an earlier promise to sign the contracts. "Going back on their word is not a way to work with the county," says Ping Mills, a Realtor from Lodi Township. "It's wrong. It's going to hurt them."

The other newcomer, Augusta Township attorney Ken Schwartz, also says the number-one issue is public safety—but adds that in his mind, "the most immediate issue is the jail. I'm no expert on it, but I believe the jail is inadequate for the county's needs."

County administrator Bob Guenzel couldn't agree more. According to Guenzel, the almost-thirty-year-old jail on Hogback has a rated capacity of 332 inmates—but by last August held 405 people.

Since then, sheriff Dan Minzey has turned away all nonviolent criminals. "We've been hovering around 360 [inmates] ever since we locked the doors," says sheriff's department commander Dave Egeler. "We are not accepting new arrests unless it's one of the enumerated crimes—sexual assault, armed robbery, domestic assault, one of those type crimes. Other crimes—larceny, home invasion—aren't being accepted at the jail."

This has meant turning away from eight to ten prisoners a day. Local police have kept a few they regard as flight risks in their own lockups, but have no choice except to release almost all of the rest back onto the street. "We're really getting hammered here," says Ypsilanti City police chief Matt Harshberger. "We've had 160 total arrests with a total of 349 charges turned away from the county jail—and property crimes have gone from 1,544 in 2005 to 1,605 this year through November."

No wonder Harshberger says he "absolutely" supports the county's latest plan to expand the jail. In November commissioners voted to borrow $21.6 million to overhaul its kitchen, laundry, and security systems—and add another ninety-six beds, bringing its official capacity to 428.

Minzey rejects that as inadequate. "Right now, we should have 580 beds," he says. But the sheriff has hardly been a leader in past expansion efforts. In 2005, he offered at best tepid support for a failed millage that would have added 225 beds while also funding alternatives to incarceration. Later that same year, his deputies' union helped block a $30 million bond that would have paid for a ninety-six-bed addition and court improvements.

The deputies weren't opposed to the extra jail cells—they just didn't like the county's plan to repay the money by raising policing fees in the townships. But now that every municipality patrolled by the sheriff has contracted at the new, higher rates, the county will finally be able to move ahead on the long-overdue expansion. As for Minzey's complaint that ninety-six beds is not enough, Guenzel insists that this is only a start: "The long-term solution is to take out current pods one by one and replace them with 200-bed pods. According to our plan, in twenty years, we'd have 800 beds in there."

Minzey's obstructionism has earned him powerful enemies. Saline police chief Paul Bunten and former sheriff's lieutenant Jerry Clayton have already announced plans to run against him in 2008. And for some commissioners, two years may be too long to wait. "After the way he's acted," says Ann Arbor commissioner Barbara Levin Bergman, "why not a recall?"

Return from Iraq

In the Green Zone for three years, linguist John Peterson, sixty-nine, saw tragedy and bravery—and satisfied his zest for adventure.

Once, when Peterson was talking on the phone with his wife, Thaïs, back in Ann Arbor, she heard an explosion in the background.

"What's that?" she asked nervously.

"Some rockets went off," replied John matter-of-factly.

"You'd better take cover," Thaïs urged, alarmed.

"I already am," replied John—who was

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Linguist and cabinetmaker John Peterson, sixty-nine, spent three years in Baghdad testing translators for a U.S. contractor. "I figured it was my duty," he says.

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speaking to her while crouched behind a concrete barricade.

The United States paid Peterson more than $100,000 a year to test Iraqis seeking jobs as English interpreters with the American military. But the money wasn't the main reason Peterson—a Yale- and U-M-trained linguist and self-employed cabinetmaker—went to Iraq. "I'm kind of a natural born patriot," he says. "I figured it was my duty."

In Iraq, "I was kind of the grandfather of my group," Peterson says. But he proved surprisingly resilient, adapting to sleeping conditions that ranged from a closet in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces to a small trailer shared with another American.

Peterson figures he must have tested over 10,000 Iraqis (mostly men) during his three years overseas. As the months and years passed, and the insurgents grew stronger, the work became increasingly dangerous—for both him and the translators. Posters displayed throughout Baghdad offered rewards for killing employees of American firms, including the one he worked for.

Despite the peril, out-of-work lawyers, professors, and doctors kept applying for jobs as translators. "I was amazed at their courage," says Peterson. He knows that several people he tested were killed, and recalls seeing a statistic that one out of every five Iraqis murdered is an interpreter.

A self-described "conservative Democrat," Peterson admits to mixed feelings about the increasingly unpopular war. He's uncertain about whether America should have intervened in the first place, but disagrees with the recent Iraq Study Group recommendation to begin withdrawing U.S. troops—he believes that more forces may be needed to stabilize Baghdad and other troubled areas. He also disagrees with the group's recommendation that the United States and allies should negotiate with Syria and Iran, "since they've obviously been the greatest supporters of the insurgents."

That doesn't mean he'll be challenging the antiwar protesters at the downtown post office. "I'm not confrontational," he says. He especially avoids debates with Thaïs, a former Democratic city council representative. Now a food specialist and cooking demonstrator at Busch's, she strongly opposes the war. "We agree to disagree," she says.

The Power of the Vortex

The U-M is developing a nonpolluting electrical generator.

To explain how his invention works, naval engineering prof Michael Bernitsas shows grainy footage of the collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in Washington State in 1940. What does a suspension bridge bucking in the wind have to do with generating electricity from gentle river and ocean currents? Both, Bernitsas explains, depend on a phenomenon called "vortex-induced vibration," or VIV.

The arcane phenomenon was first described in 1504 by Leonardo da Vinci. Historically, however, VIV has been of interest to engineers only as a destructive force to be controlled. "That's why no one has thought of it [as a power source] in five hundred years," says Bernitsas.

Until now, that is. Bernitsas has installed a working prototype of his generator—a U-shaped apparatus about the size of an office chair—in a slightly leaky circular tank in West Hall. Dapper in a blue monogrammed shirt with gold cuff links, he stands next to the tank and slowly twists the Speed knob on the wall. A motor whines, a propeller spins, and the water starts flowing like a river past the generator.

The device is fixed in position, so the current can't push it sideways. Instead, as the water flows past, a gold-colored cylinder in the center begins to rhythmically bob up and down, like a pogo stick. "The flow excites the structure," explains Bernitsas. The same kind of vertical motions destroyed the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Here, they're being harvested: the cylinder pulls a shaft that turns a rotary generator and, voilà, produces energy. Three bulbs attached to the generator blink off and on in rhythm with the bobbing gizmo.

"Wait a minute," Bernitsas told grad student Kamaldev Raghavan. "You want to work on [vortex-induced vibration]; I want renewable energy—why don't we combine the two and see if we can generate energy from VIV!"

Bernitsas can add fluorescent material to the water, illuminate it with lasers, and reveal the secret behind his invention: the current passing around the cylinder is actually made up of a string of curlicue shapes called vortices. The spinning vortices push the cylinder up and down.

"I definitely need to explain how the phenomenon works—even in my department," Bernitsas admits. "But the two colleagues in my department who understood vortex-induced vibrations were pretty thrilled."

In years past, Bernitsas has written extensively on how to dampen the destructive effects of VIV on marine objects such as fishing nets—so extensively, in fact, that he burned out on the subject. So when one of his Ph.D. students, Kamaldev Raghavan, proposed writing his dissertation on the subject two years ago, Bernitsas balked.

"I was writing on the whiteboard,"

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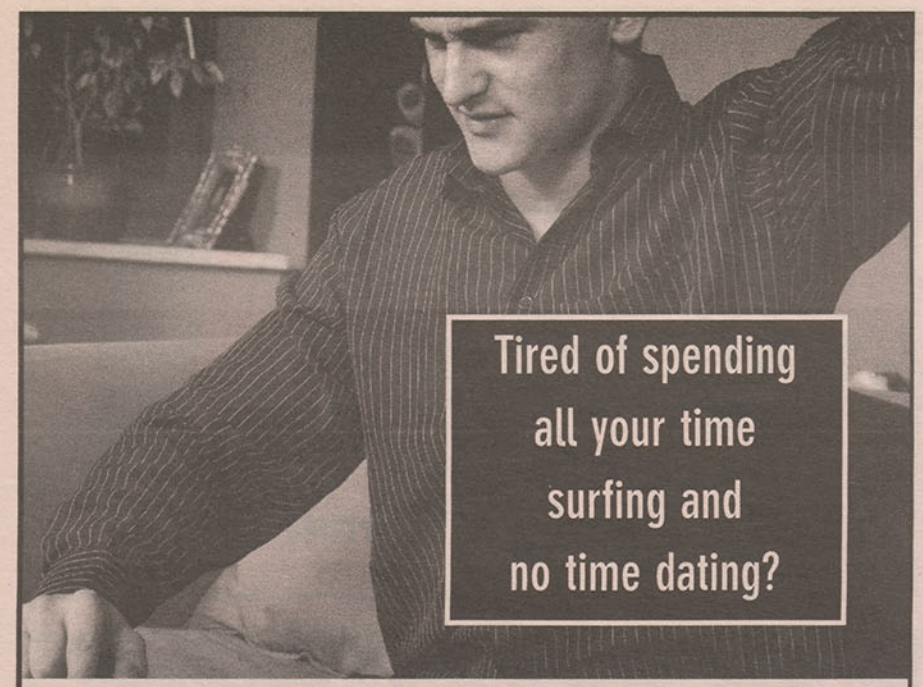

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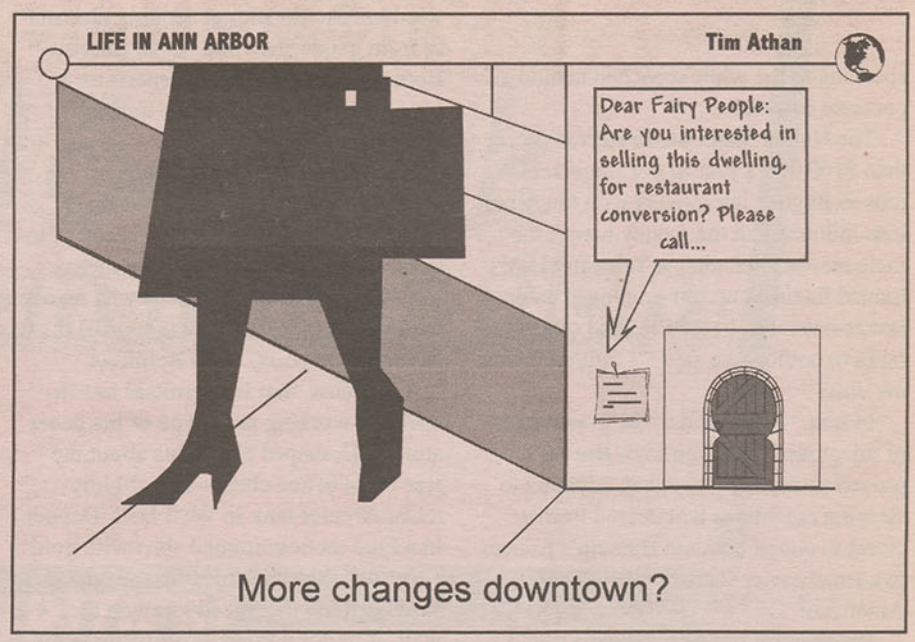
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Bernitsas recalls, "and said, 'Wait a minute. You want to work on VIV; I want renewable energy—why don't we combine the two and see if we can generate energy from VIV!' We did some calculations and it seemed viable, so I said, 'Don't talk to anybody!' "

Since then, Bernitsas has applied for a patent under the direction of U-M's Office of Technology Transfer (the rights belong to the U-M under his name and his students'), formed a company called Vortex Hydro Energy, and, along with a cadre of students, built the working prototype. According to his lab data, it can generate a kilowatt-hour of electricity in Michigan for 5.5¢, compared to 4¢ for coal and 48¢ for solar energy. Toni Newville from the Department of Energy says Bernitsas's device "appears to be extremely cost effective for a renewable energy source."

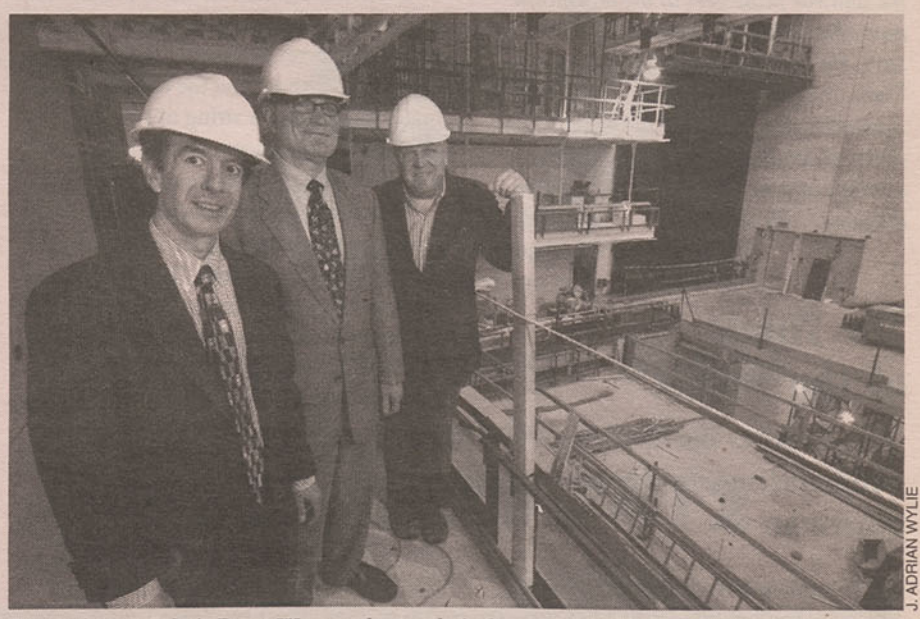
Bernitsas's next step is to build an oceangoing prototype. He's trying to raise $2.5 million to construct and install a device the size of a small house. Using tides and currents, it should generate enough energy to power up to fifty homes. Eventually, he envisions giant VIV generators powering desalinization plants to provide fresh water to parched coastal cities around the world.

Theater's New Home

After fifty ragtag years in the now-doomed Frieze Building on Central Campus, the U-M theater department is reveling in its first-ever dedicated space.

The new Walgreen Drama Center on North Campus is best known as the future home of the Arthur Miller Theater. The state-of-the-art, 300-seat theater is still under construction—it's scheduled to open with a production of *Playing for Time,* by U-M alum Miller, on March 30. But the offices, classrooms, and rehearsal halls of the building that surrounds it already are teeming with thrilled theater faculty and students.

Built on a tight budget, the building is spacious but spare—the wide concrete hallways, for example, will never be carpeted. "No money was put into aesthetics except in the theater area," says assistant prof Gary Decker. Calling the WDC an "arts bunker," Decker says that despite the lack of frills, "this new space has energized us all."



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Musical theater chair Brent Wagner, theater chair Greg Poggi, and set-design prof Gary Decker in the future Arthur Miller Theater. "This new space has energized us all," Decker says.

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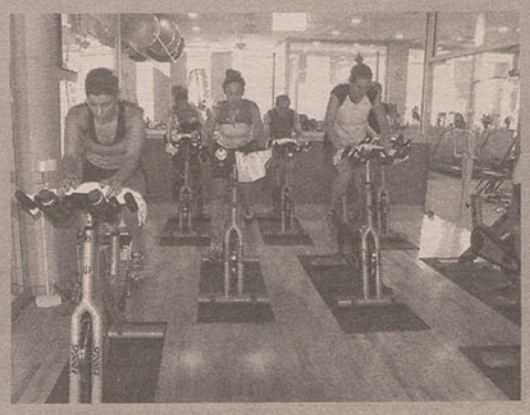

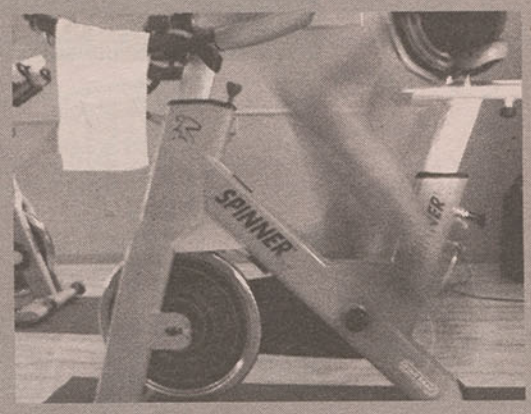

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Associate prof Vince Mountain concurs. "I had a fond spot for the Frieze," says Mountain, a set designer, "but this is designed for what we do."

"Every room is program specific," explains Decker as he ushers a visitor into a lighting design lab. "In the Frieze, this was in a large closet." In an airy room with a sprung wooden floor, former department chair Erik Fredricksen is teaching a combat class. Evenings, this room and two others like it become rehearsal spaces for Power Center, Lydia Mendelssohn, and Arthur Miller productions, or host their own shows as studio theaters. To an outsider the three rooms look more than ample; according to Decker, they were downsized from the original plans by ten feet, for a savings of almost $2 million. But he's not complaining.

Possibly the happiest campers at the WDC are musical theater faculty and students, who in the twenty-three years of

calls & letters

Fraser's figures

To the Observer:

Your article on Roger Fraser ["Agent of Change," December] overstates both the savings Mr. Fraser has achieved from workforce reduction and the dire state of city revenues. IRS filings show wages increased from $56 million before Fraser arrived to $60.3 million for the most recent fiscal year.

Financial statements and the current year budget show revenue sharing has fallen from $14.5 million in fiscal year 2001 to $11.3 million today, not the $8–$9 million quoted in the article.

This decline is more than offset by increases in property taxes collected. City financial statements show combined revenue from property taxes and revenue sharing increased $9.4 million from fiscal year 2001–02 to fiscal year 2005–06.

Sincerely,
Karen Sidney

"Ms. Sidney is correct that the state shared revenue is now approximately $11.3 million," says city CFO Tom Crawford. "We expect state shared revenue to drop to $8 to $9 million during the next couple of years." Crawford notes that it's taken five years for total wages (including reorganization-related overtime) to return to their 2001 levels. If not for the staff cuts, he calculates, wages alone would be more than $10 million higher this year.

MARK BIALEK

MARK BIALEK

Elizabeth Ellen (lower left) moved from Flint in hopes of finding a writing community. Now she and husband Aaron Burch (lower right) are part of an informal group that includes (top, left to right) Jessica Bomarito, Dwayne Hayes, Mike Alber, and Dan Wickett. The writers and editors "don't necessarily share a writing style," Ellen says, "but share a laid-back sensibility about writing and life in general."

Townie Lit

Hard-partying local authors and editors find literary life outside of Angell Hall.

The stakes have been raised and the competition is fierce. White Russians accompany the shrinking and ballooning stacks of chips, and the voices of the players grow agitated. It's poker night at Elizabeth Ellen and Aaron Burch's house. The assembled guests have just returned from a writers' conference in Austin, Texas, and as the drinks kick in, the memories exchanged grow blurry. But Burch, editor of the literary journal *Hobart,* has one indelible story. He describes the phone call he got late at night in his room at a Motel 6. An unknown voice promised that a prostitute was waiting in the hotel and offered her services for $69.

Burch's *Hobart*—like Davy Rothbart's *Found* and Keith Hood and Amy Sumerton's *Orchid*—is wooing a devoted audience and publishing award-winning stories. Other townies are represented in *Unsquared,* an anthology of Ann Arbor writers just released by the tutoring center 826michigan.

Ellen and Burch, along with writers Steve Gillis, Jeff Parker, Mike Alber, Stefan Kiesbye, and Jessica Bomarito, and editors Dwayne Hayes and Dan Wickett, don't have a manifesto. They can't even be strictly called a group—there is no membership, and they're always open for more company. But you can find them together not just at readings, but also at pool tables, in pumpkin patches, and at Ellen's daughter Andromeda's school plays.

Parker, a professor at EMU and writer-in-residence at Greenhills School, is the author of the upcoming novel *Ovenman* and of a story collection consisting largely of instructions for drinking games. "When I was a kid in Florida," he muses, "I remember thinking, 'Why would anyone live in the Midwest? Corn?' It was inconceivable to me. But now, I kind of feel at home here." The feeling is shared by Ellen, who moved from Fenton to Ann Arbor "in hopes of finding a writing community." For her and others, writing and publishing are less ways of earning a living than acts of self-exploitation. Hayes, after earning a Master of Social Work from the U-M, worked many years as a therapist for sex offenders and once considered becoming an FBI profiler. He and poet Bomarito pay for the journal *Absinthe: New European Writing* out of their own pockets.

Everyone seems relaxed about setbacks as well as successes, and competition is strictly limited to games. When novelist Josip Novakovich came to town, he was challenged to a game of Jenga. Short story writer Sam Lipsyte played poker until 3 in the morning.

"Not having any biological family in the area, I feel more a familial pull to my writer friends here in Ann Arbor," Ellen says, adding that the writers "don't necessarily share a writing style but share a laid-back sensibility about writing and life in general."

"There is no pettiness among us," Gillis chimes in. "And we drink like fish and don't get mad when one of us barfs in the backseat."

While many townie writers have personal ties and friendships with writers at the U-M, Wickett says he noticed "an invisible line [between the groups] last year at the Ann Arbor Book Festival opening night party." Mike Alber, who gave up medical school for EMU's writing program, says the division is "not an intentional thing" and volunteers that "of the U-M people I've met, most were great." But then he adds, "We write about sex and bombs and secret agents building Lego boats—while they write about their relationship with their grandfather." ■

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Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses–** in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

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SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

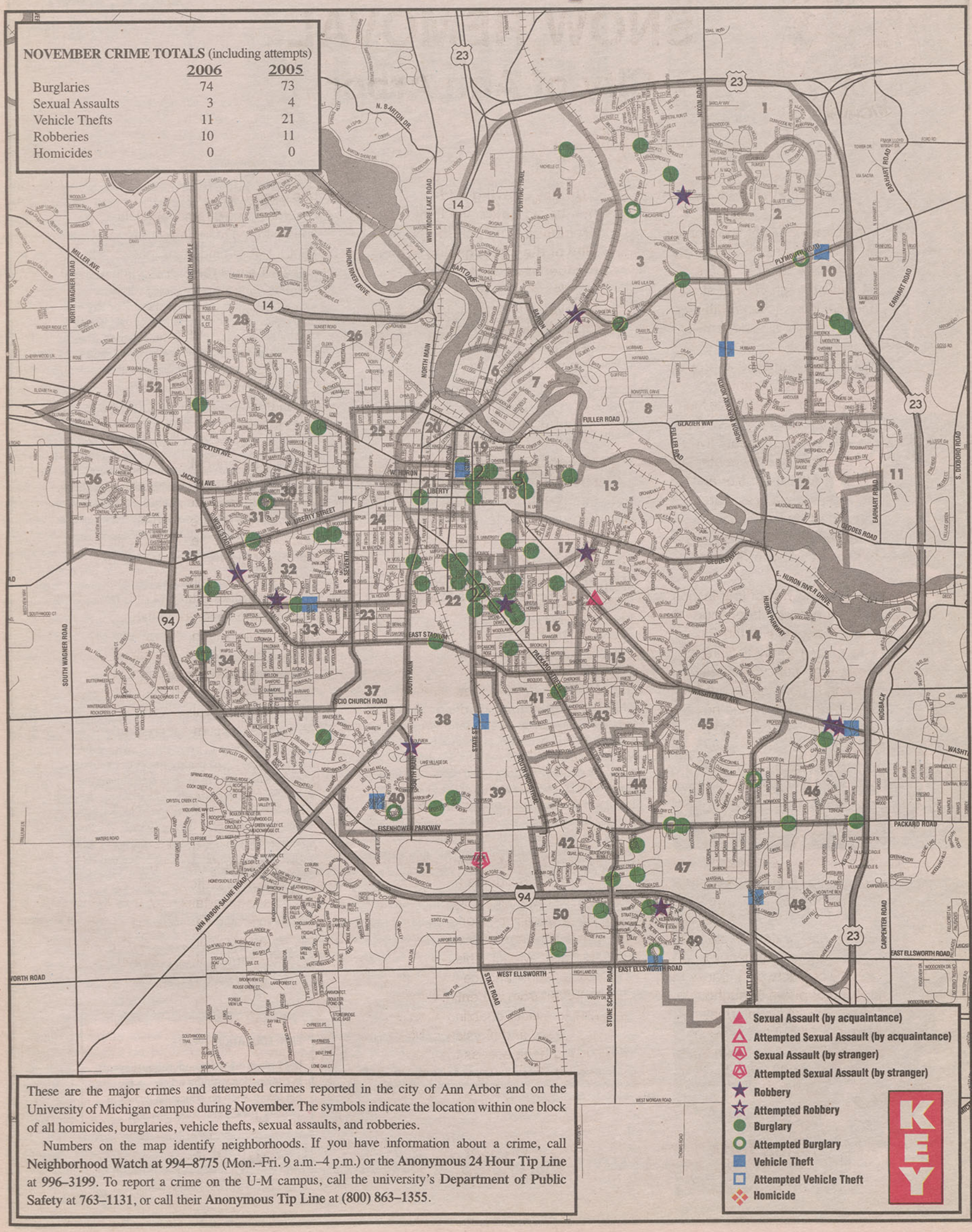
Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003

CrimeMap

NOVEMBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2006	2005
Burglaries	74	73
Sexual Assaults	3	4
Vehicle Thefts	11	21
Robberies	10	11
Homicides	0	0



Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
Attempted Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
Sexual Assault (by stranger)
Attempted Sexual Assault (by stranger)
Robbery
Attempted Robbery
Burglary
Attempted Burglary
Vehicle Theft
Attempted Vehicle Theft
Homicide

KEY

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the city of Ann Arbor and on the University of Michigan campus during **November.** The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call **Neighborhood Watch at 994–8775** (Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or the **Anonymous 24 Hour Tip Line** at **996–3199**. To report a crime on the U-M campus, call the university's **Department of Public Safety** at **763–1131**, or call their **Anonymous Tip Line** at **(800) 863–1355**.

January

Takács Quartet

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

This awesome foursome has become an Ann Arbor chamber music tradition, with unique programs that are probing, revealing, and constantly engaging. Their intellectual curiosity and passion are demonstrated through their performances, which in recent years have ranged from collaborations with Hungarian folk ensembles and poets to the complete Bartók String Quartet cycle. This year, the ensemble presents a more traditional program in a performance of works by Brahms, Mozart, and Beethoven.

PROGRAM

Brahms	Quartet in a minor, Op. 51, No. 2 (1873)
Mozart	Quartet in d minor, K. 421 (1783)
Beethoven	Quartet No. 15 in a minor, Op. 132 (1825)

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A Music-Theatre Work in One Act

Bright Sheng's *Silver River*

Music by **Bright Sheng**
Libretto by **David Henry Hwang**
Directed by **Ong Keng Sen**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 8 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 8 PM
Power Center

MacArthur "Genius" Grant winner Bright Sheng and Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang created *Silver River* in 1997 as a masterful integration of Western and Chinese cultures. This music-theater work unites Western opera, drama, and dance with Chinese opera and virtuosic solo playing of the Chinese lute (pipa) into an entertaining telling of a 4,000-year-old Chinese folktale about the creation of day and night. Today, this tale is familiar in many Asian countries as a symbolic story of perfect love struggling to survive in an imperfect world.

Written and performed in English, *Silver River* was the highlight of the 2000 Spoleto Festival, the 2002 Lincoln Center Festival, and the 2002 Theater Works Singapore. "Sheng has fashioned a music theater fable of great charm and imagination...With a sweet simplicity, [*Silver River*] creates magic before our eyes." (*Chicago Tribune*)

Presented in partnership with the **U-M Office of the Provost, U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance**, and **Columbia Artists Management Inc.**

Supported by the **Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation** and the **U-M Office of the President.**

Additional support provided by the **U-M Center for Chinese Studies, Ingrid and William Ginsberg, International Institute**, and the **Institute for the Humanities.**

the 51st (dream) state

Sekou Sundiata

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 8 PM
Power Center

In the 51st (dream) state, vanguard poet and musician Sekou Sundiata takes us on a galvanizing soul search for our identity through his poetic and personal "State of the American Soul" Address. Sundiata performs his unique blend of poetry with a five piece band, complimented by four female vocalists as well as dancer David Thomson. The score, written by Graham Haynes, also features music by such artists as Ani DiFranco and Abbey Lincoln.

The adventure juxtaposes humor, hatred, poignancy, and joy in its quest to find a vision of what it means to be both a citizen and an individual in a deeply complex society. Among the issues considered are the meaning of the "pursuit of happiness" in a society that places so much emphasis on tangible outcomes; what a public imagination steeped in violence says about who we are; and the prospects for love, compassion, and human solidarity.

Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM** and **Michigan Chronicle/Front Page.**

Co-presented with the **U-M Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.**

This is a NETWORK event.

The Chieftains

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 4 PM
Hill Auditorium

This Hill Auditorium performance features one of the hottest acts in the folk world today. With a career that spans 44 years and 42 albums (and counting!), the Chieftains are the most enduring and influential creative force in establishing the international appeal of Celtic music. Known for their collaborations with a wide range of musicians — including Van Morrison, James Galway, The Rolling Stones, Sting, Los Lobos, and a variety of country music stars — the Chieftains have received six Grammy Awards and 18 nominations. They return to UMS for their first performance in five years.

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Ellen Rowe

A life in jazz

GRIFFIN LINDSAY

Rowe's first teaching job paid so little at first that she did construction work on the side to make extra money. "I was in an attic in a house shoveling out pigeon dung," she smiles, "and I knew I was doing a lot for my art."

Leading the final rehearsal of the U-M Jazz Ensemble before its December concert in Rackham Auditorium, professor Ellen Rowe energetically taps her right foot to the music as her hands and arms rhythmically swish, point, and direct. Wearing black jeans and her trademark Lance Armstrong yellow bracelet, she gently corrects a trumpeter's low F note and asks the band to return to one section. "Good, good. I'm happy with that," she tells the musicians after the second pass. A few minutes later, in another section, she snaps her fingers and says, "So try it again."

Rowe's days and nights are nearly as full as that two-hour practice session. Her days are spent in classrooms at the U-M music school, where she has been on the faculty since 1996, or in her cluttered office, where a black grand piano and hundreds of CDs testify to her dedication to jazz piano. Late afternoons are often devoted to a four-to-six-mile run through the Arboretum. Most Wednesday evenings she performs at the Firefly Club as part of the Paul Keller Orchestra. Other nights, she composes or plays with other groups, including her own Ellen Rowe Quartet. And for several months recently, she squeezed in fund-raising events and concerts to collect $6,000 for the Lance Armstrong Foundation as part of its team in the New York Marathon.

Music, marathons, and making students shine are the keys to Rowe's life. She's a standout—both as a woman who performs in a still male-dominated field and as someone who wants to excel in her music but also find time for giving back. "She's the jazz department's glue—she keeps the whole thing together," says Michael Gould, an associate professor of music and a friend of Rowe's. "She's the front line of helping students."

Rowe's roles as performer and teacher sometimes overlap. She requires students in her jazz improvisation class to attend and write about performances at the Firefly—and if they come on Wednesday, she may ask the band to play a piece or two she recently discussed in class.

Although she encourages her students to pursue careers in music, she knows firsthand how tough it can be. Forty-eight, she grew up in Connecticut in a musical family (her mother taught flute; her father directed a high school band) and started playing piano at age four. At the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, she studied jazz composition and arrangement, supporting herself by playing at weddings, bar mitzvahs, and a local restaurant.

After graduation she moved to New York City to try to make it as a musician. Though she got some gigs, she quickly ran out of money, so she joined the band on a cruise ship. "I was definitely the only woman among forty-five musicians on board," she says. After almost nine months at sea, she was offered a part-time job setting up a jazz program at the University of Connecticut.

"It was a massive shock to my system to suddenly have to be a responsible adult," she recalls—at twenty-four, she was "barely older than some of my students." The job paid so little at first that she moved back in with her parents and did construction work to make extra money. "I was in an attic in a house shoveling out pigeon dung," she smiles, "and I knew I was doing a lot for my art."

Rowe stayed at Connecticut for twelve years. In 1996, after the end of her marriage and the death of her mother, she accepted a job offer at the U-M. Although nervous about leaving family and the East Coast, where she'd lived her entire life, she quickly developed a circle of friends here and began performing as well as teaching—Paul Keller describes her as "a master jazz improviser." Her quartet has appeared on NPR's *Jazz Set* and at a number of respected jazz festivals.

And then there's composing. What she writes is influenced by several jazz greats and by folk music—"It's lyrical and a little more open; leave space, and let things organically develop"—and often has a wistful or longing tone. She has written songs about her brother, who committed suicide, and one called "If Time Stood Still," after her mother was diagnosed with the cancer that killed her.

Rowe's sister also was diagnosed with ovarian cancer—leading Rowe to fundraising. She's run several marathons to raise money for the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance. (Her sister's cancer is now in remission.)

She grew interested in cyclist and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong through her boyfriend, an avid cyclist, and appreciates the charity's emphasis on information and attitude. She encourages her students to volunteer for projects too. When the Michigan Jazz Ensemble goes on tour, she makes sure the group visits urban high schools for concerts and clinics. The stops remind the students "they're pretty darn lucky," she says.

Her generosity is inspired by her mother, who was "always helping out—volunteering or writing checks," Rowe recalls. Her mother's charitable gifts sometimes created tension with her father, who protested she was donating too much. Yet her mother's message clearly resonates in Rowe's life: "You do what you can for others," she says. "Be grateful for what you have, and give back."

—Vickie Elmer

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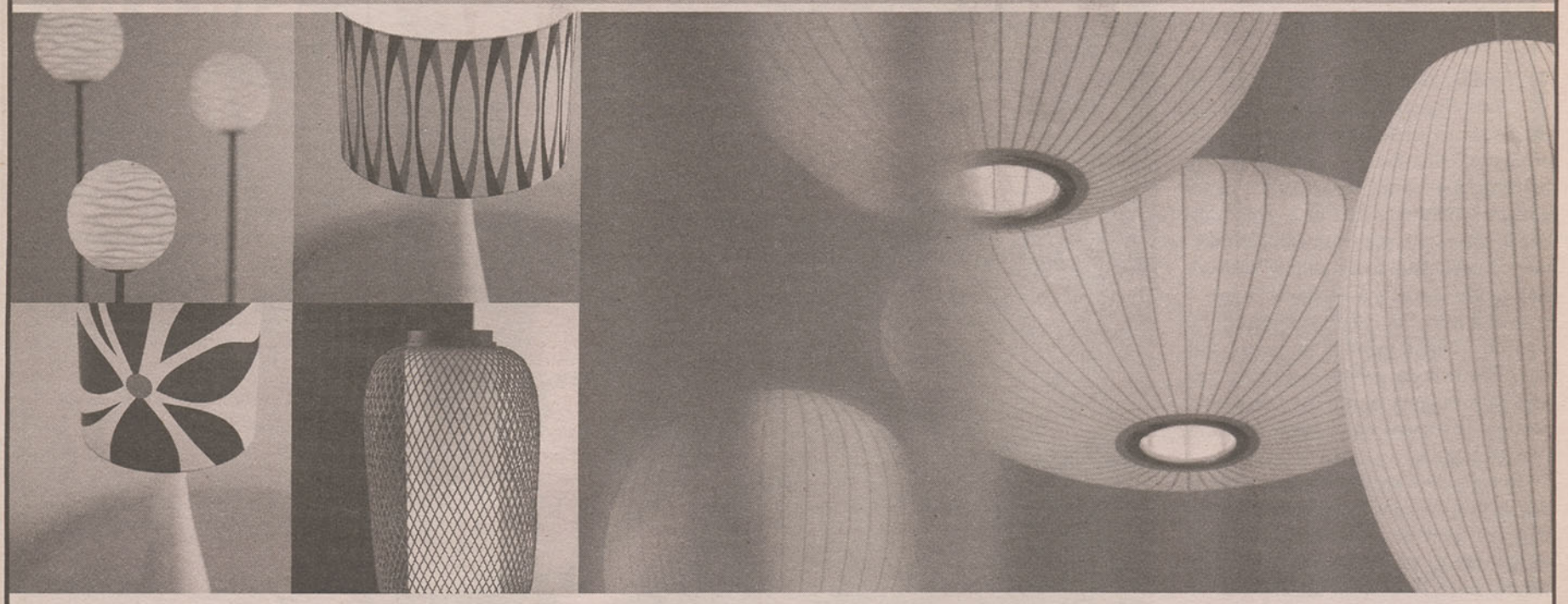

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Courtney's cakes

A morning with a sugarsmith

MARK BIALEK

For one exceptionally large wedding cake, Courtney used a PVC pipe to roll out the fondant. "You often see master pastry chefs at Home Depot," she explains. "In this line of work you have to think outside the box."

Walking into Courtney Clark's new cake shop very early one Saturday morning, I expect to be greeted by a warm whiff of freshly baked cake. Instead, I smell only coffee—inviting though that may be at such an early hour. Courtney gives me lesson number one in professional cake decorating: never attempt to decorate a freshly baked cake. The cakes she'll decorate today all spent the night in the refrigerator, tightly covered in plastic wrap. By now, the cakes are so firm that they can even be sculpted into swells with a knife.

I could tell from the pictures on her website that Cake Nouveau, Courtney's shop near Kerrytown, would be different. As an amateur cake baker and general dessert enthusiast, I wanted to know just how these eccentric creations of hers come together. I once created a replica of Dante's Inferno for a high school English class project, using prodigious mounds of devil's food cake, fudge icing, and plastic cowboys and Indians standing in as sinners. Despite my zealous efforts all through the night, the cake turned out to be a saggy, cloying mess.

I know now that my fresh-from-the-oven Duncan Hines Moist Deluxe cakes were a recipe for decorating disaster, but there must be more to success than mere refrigeration. How does she get those impeccably clean lines and those gravity-defying towers with nary a sag in sight?

Courtney has the blond good looks of a weather girl tempered by a certain gravity of manner. This morning she and her assistant, Kellyn Nabozny, are decorating a cake to match a baby shower invitation. It has to be delivered to the shower by mid-morning, three hours from now. Though there's no time for making mistakes, they're cool as they work, and chat easily with me.

Courtney is used to working under pressure. "I had three hours to assemble my cake for the Food Network's Detroit Jazz Festival competition," she recalls. "I was just throwing things on the cake as fast as I could." That cake was about twice the size of the one she's decorating this morning, and the design far more complex. Despite the pressure, Courtney took first prize that day.

She begins the decorating process by covering the first layer, a square of chai tea latte cake about twelve inches square and four inches high, with mint green–colored fondant. Fondant is a bland sugar substance that when stretched over a cake looks as smooth as polished marble. In the hand, a glob of it feels like soft new Play-Doh.

After sprinkling powdered sugar on the counter, Courtney rolls out the fondant with a rolling pin. For one exceptionally large wedding cake, she used a PVC pipe as a roller. "You often see master pastry chefs at Home Depot," she explains. "In this line of work you have to think outside the box."

Courtney drapes the fondant over the cake and pulls it around the edges with her fingers until she has a seamless covering. The second layer, which resembles a toy drum in size and shape, gets the same green fondant covering and is crowned with an extra layer of white fondant. Courtney trims the bottom edge of this layer in a scallop pattern to match the invitation.

Meanwhile, Kellyn, quiet and more deliberate in her motions, tints the fondant that will cover the cake's cardboard base. She smears a tiny amount of dark yellow food coloring onto a lump of white fondant and kneads it like bread dough with the palms of her hands until it turns a creamy pale lemon. Kellyn recently finished high school and will attend culinary school in Colorado next year.

Taller cakes can look tippy and unstable, but I learn they're actually very sturdy. "I've never had a cake just fall over," Courtney remarks as she begins to assemble the layers. She first cuts two thick wooden sticks so that they're just one millimeter taller than the bottom layer, and then thrusts them all the way down into the center of the cake. The upper layer, which is sitting on a cardboard disc, is placed on these supports. With the combined support of the sticks and the cardboard, the top layer rests lightly yet firmly atop the bottom one.

Then Courtney fills an industrial-grade airbrush machine with Luster Dust, a silver liquid. Applied to the whole surface of the fondant-covered cake, it produces a subtle twinkle. She shouts to me over the roar of the machine that it applies the liquid far more evenly than she could hope to herself with a paintbrush. Meanwhile, Kellyn attaches a yellow ribbon around the square cardboard cake base with a hot glue gun.

The Luster Dusted cake is cautiously set on the beribboned base, and it's time to add the final decorations. The night before, Courtney punched out rainbow-colored dots of fondant with the tip of a conical pastry bag nozzle and stuck smaller punched-out dots of a different color in the center of the larger ones, making double dots.

After the airbrush machine and hot glue gun, I'm hardly surprised when Kellyn brings out a bottle of Absolut vodka and pours a small amount into a cup. Kellyn mixes the vodka with a powdery substance and tells me she's making a sugary gum paste for sticking decorations onto the fondant. "The vodka dries more quickly than water," she explains.

Courtney and Kellyn swab tiny amounts of the paste onto the double dots and align them into concentric circles around the scallop-edged top layer. The expectant mother is an architect, so Courtney wants the dots to be precisely ordered.

At last, after three hours of continuous labor, we step back to survey the finished product: an impossibly symmetrical masterpiece. No drips, no bumps, no sags. Perfection.

The two women gently slide the finished cake into an electric-pink box and lift it into the back of Courtney's SUV. (Cakes taller than two layers are assembled layer-by-layer on site.) As for the actual delivery to the party location, Courtney says, "You learn to take corners real slow when you're making a delivery, despite all the impatient drivers honking around you."

Once the cake has been slid out of its box onto its final resting spot, the decorators retreat quickly. Courtney's not interested in sticking around after deliveries—not since she saw one of her towering masterpieces butchered by an inept cake cutter at a friend's wedding. And with her long list of orders, there's always another cake to be decorated.

—Allison Ryan

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Changing Gears

Ford Country makes room for the Toyota Way.

by Vickie Elmer

Each weekday morning, Warren Chou jumps into his Pontiac Vibe to drive to work. His car, made at a joint GM-Toyota factory in California, reflects his automotive odyssey: Chou got his start in the car business at General Motors—but now works as an engineer at the Toyota Technical Center in Ann Arbor Township.

Chou, twenty-five, is a self-described "car guy." He grew up in Rochester Hills sketching cars and dreaming of a career with a big automaker. He interned at GM while studying industrial engineering—a path that generations of young engineers once followed into lifelong jobs at the auto giant. But last April he moved to Toyota in hopes of steering onto a more prosperous career path.

For more than eighty years, GM and Ford ruled unchallenged as the world's biggest automakers. But now the erstwhile Big Two are slashing jobs and closing factories—and the Japanese automaker is coming up fast. Toyota overtook Ford in 2003, and analysts predict it will pass GM by 2010.

Toyota is making a splash locally as well; it's spending more than $200 million to build a new research and design center in York Township, near Milan. The company has promised to create 400 jobs there in exchange for various tax incentives—in addition to the 900 people already working at the existing facility off Dixboro Road.

Some think Toyota will eventually employ 2,000 people in the area. If so, sleepy York Township could become the company's biggest R&D hub outside of Japan.

While Toyota and other Asian automakers are revving up, American companies are sputtering. In Saline, workers who build dashboards and instrument panels for Ford Mustangs and F-150s face bleak futures, including the possibility of lower wages and layoffs. The sprawling parts plant on US-12, built forty years ago, will either close or be sold within two years, sending the careers of workers like fifty-year-old Hank Desautel of Manchester into reverse. After thirty years at the plant, Desautel is taking a buyout.

The contrast between Toyota's growth and the continued bleeding by American automakers shows up clearly in the differences between Chou, a U-M graduate, and Desautel, who was raised on a farm, never went to college, and started working at the Michigan Avenue factory in 1976 at age twenty.

For generations, Michigan's auto factories represented the industrial side of the American dream. Ford, GM, and Chrysler offered hundreds of thousands of dull but well-paid factory jobs where workers without college degrees could earn enough to buy homes, cars, recreational toys, and college degrees for their kids. But that dream has all but disappeared, as Toyota and other foreign automakers have consistently beaten the American companies at their own game.

Left behind are workers like Desautel, who punches in every day and heads for an assembly line where he builds the same part for hours. On the fast track are workers like Chou, whose day sometimes continues into the night as he collaborates with engineers in Toyota City, Japan, or shares ideas with designers in southern California.

The automotive workplace requires more thinking, training, and collaboration than ever before. It's a more global and multicultural environment, where teammates could as easily be in Japan or Kentucky as across the plant-filled atrium at Toyota's Ann Arbor Township facility.

"The industry is changing," says Desautel. "The economy and times are changing. It's time to move on."

On the way out are workers like Hank Desautel (top), who is taking a buyout after thirty years on the line at the former Ford plant in Saline. On the rise are workers like Toyota tech center engineer Warren Chou and manager Randy Stephens (above).

Toyota's Ann Arbor presence traces the company's growth curve. The automaker first came to Michigan more than thirty years ago to be close to the Environmental Protection Agency emissions lab on Plymouth Road. There was nothing fancy about that first facility: Toyota's U.S. emissions lab took over a portion of the former Hilbert's Garage, a car repair shop just north of the Broadway Bridges.

Barber Johnnie Rush, whose shop is next door, recalls that Hilbert's actually made more of an impression. The garage "had a lot of cars coming in and out, wrecked cars," Rush says. "Toyota was so small it wasn't notable."

The Toyota emissions lab grew steadily after moving to the township in 1980 but continued to keep a low profile—for years it wasn't even listed in the local phone book. The Ann Arbor building was bought by another Japanese manufacturer, Suzuki. Suzuki also eventually outgrew the space and moved into a new facility in Wixom. Now developer Ed Shaffran is converting the former Hilbert's Garage into apartments. With their luxury kitchens and loft-like exposed concrete-block walls and ducts, Shaffran expects the two-bedroom units will rent for $1,900 to $2,400 a month.

The tsunami of change in the auto industry is sweeping away not just buildings but lives as well. Jobs in Saline's Ford parts plant often lasted a lifetime, and its work shifts dictated retail and traffic patterns in the city. The jobs Toyota is bringing just down the road will attract more mobile workers with less predictable hours. The white-collar engineers will want different types of far-flung living and retail options. They will work in a semi-rural area far from existing downtowns.

York Township expects an array of new commercial and residential developments to grow up around Toyota's 700-acre campus, which occupies the site of the old state psychiatric hospital near US-23 and Willis Road. "We did have this nice quiet

PHOTOS J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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January 2007 Events

Exhibition: **Katie Kahn: A Fantastic Galaxy of Complications**

January 9 – February 8
Opening Reception: January 11 • 7-9 p.m.
Gallery talk with Katie Kahn • 7:30 p.m.
Kreft Center Gallery
Gallery Hours: Tuesday–Friday 12–4 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 1–5 p.m.
Closed Monday

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Join us for a performance by Frank Pahl's experimental music trio, Little Bang Theory • 8:30 p.m. • Kreft Center Black Box Theatre adjacent to the gallery.

Books & Coffee: **Unbending Gender: Why Family and Work Conflict and What to Do About It by Joan Williams**

Discussion led by Julieanna Frost, Assistant Professor of History
Thursday, January 18 • 4 p.m.
Riverside Conference Room

Is it possible to successfully combine a career and a family at the same time? Do women have to choose between family and work? Do men? Julieanna Frost, Assistant Professor of History, reviews and leads a discussion based upon Joan Williams' treatise on gender, domesticity, and work, *Unbending Gender: Why Family and Work Conflict and What to Do About It.*

BEANER'S COFFEE

Faculty Recital: **Emery Stephens**

Sunday, January 21 • 4 p.m.
Chapel of the Holy Trinity

Faculty member Emery Stephens will perform a program of works featuring the music of Bach, Handel, traditional spiritual arrangements, and Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*. Concordia Professors Jean Libs, Jason Alden, Brian Altevogt, Kara Alfano, and the Concordia Chamber Choir Arborsong will also participate in an afternoon of inspirational music.

Lecture: **The Early Days of Radio in Michigan**

Documentary and lecture by Program Source
Saturday, January 27 • 10 a.m.
Krieger Hall • Room 109

This documentary and lecture presents the history of the first commercial radio stations and the programs of that era. As the public interest increased and radio set sales sky rocketed, radio soon became an "All American past time". From the mid 1920's to the 1950's, several hundred network radio programs were created. Some of the best shows originated from Detroit, Chicago and New York City. This lecture will stimulate many wonderful memories of the early days of radio.

Changing Gears

sleepy farming community," says Joe Zurawski, York Township's supervisor. "Now it's not so sleepy any more. We have been discovered."

Some folks in Saline have a feeling closer to abandonment. David Montie of Tecumseh supports five children and a disabled wife working at the parts plant. Before landing the job twelve years ago, he worked at a Goodyear factory in the Jackson area that closed.

"There's a tension building up" at the parts plant, Montie says, as its 1,500 workers worry about their futures and speculate on how long their jobs will last. So many workers are taking buyouts that the plant is hiring some temporary workers to keep up production.

In contrast, Chou and his wife, Andrea, recently bought a 2007 Camry for her to drive to her job in Farmington Hills. They own a home in Livonia but may want to trade up to a larger one in or near York Township in a couple of years—because Chou expects to be reassigned to the new facility.

He feels good about his move to Toyota. It promises him career stability and forward momentum. "There's nowhere else I'd want to be," says Chou, who appreciates that his engineering and design abilities are valued and respected.

Most days Chou works on interior designs. He likes Toyota's culture because it's energetic, focuses on problem solving, and demands accountability—while respecting employees' autonomy.

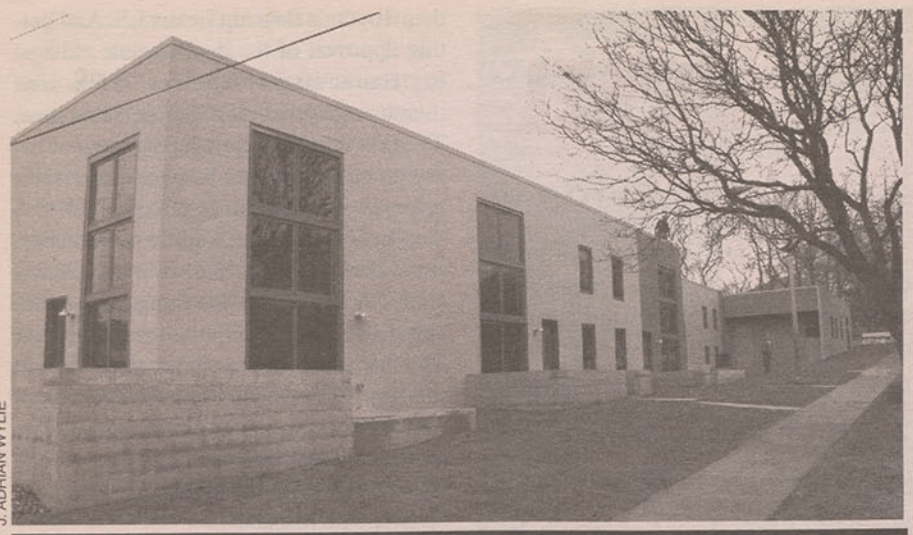
Chou grew up speaking Mandarin at home in Rochester Hills, Michigan; his parents are from Taiwan. He studied industrial engineering at the U-M and had internships at General Motors' sprawling tech center in Warren and at a GM factory in Shanghai. But when he graduated from the U-M in 2003, GM was already shrinking, so he took a job at a major automotive supplier in Van Buren Township. "I've always been a car guy, so moving out of southeast Michigan wasn't an option," he says.

Hank Desautel also has spent his whole life in this region, working on Michigan Avenue for Ford and the plant's successor owners—first Visteon and now Automotive Components Holdings Inc. Sitting in his Ford F-150 pickup one afternoon after his day shift has ended, Desautel is philosophical about the buyout: "Maybe it's a gift looking at me and I don't see it yet.

"Not everybody gets to have the luxury life I had of driving to the same spot every day," Desautel continues. "I was fortunate to have what I had." He's considering starting a handyman business or finding a job in construction to help put his two kids through college.

Though Chou and Desautel are committed to staying in Michigan, many autoworkers must retrain or relocate. Some 38,000 Ford hourly production workers in the United States have accepted buyouts,

J. ADRIAN WYLIE



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Toyota's original Ann Arbor emissions lab is now being converted to housing. When the company moved into the former Hilbert's Garage in 1972, it was selling just 300,000 vehicles a year in America. Sales have since grown eightfold, to almost 2.5 million.

and another 10,000 salaried staff may also leave. General Motors, which bought out 35,000 workers early this year, has extended buyout offers to another 30,000. DaimlerChrysler has not announced job reductions but has said that it is reducing production levels. Parts suppliers also are eliminating thousands of jobs and closing or selling factories.

Workers in Saline attended meetings with United Auto Workers and Ford officials explaining the buyout options, including one that will pay $35,000 in cash or up to $100,000 in educational expenses. Some younger workers say they'll stick with their factory jobs, hoping to hang on to wages and benefits that total $25 to $30 an hour. Others hope for a transfer to another Ford plant or subsidiary. And others are getting out.

"I'll take the money and run," says Gary Young, fifty-four, of Clinton, who will retire soon with an extra $35,000 from the buyout. "I'd like to work for a few more years, but it doesn't look good here."

There's still hope for a turnaround of sorts. General Motors, Ford, and DaimlerChrysler have become leaner and more efficient automakers than they were a decade ago, in part by borrowing techniques from Toyota and other foreign car companies and partly by closing older, inefficient factories. Their quality has improved, and they are selling more cars in China and other markets. GM, Ford, and Chrysler have new U.S. models that in coming years could stop the slide in their market share and stock prices.

Washtenaw County is changing, too, and the county is far less dependent on auto jobs than other parts of Michigan are. Automotive manufacturing employment has dropped by about 15 percent, or 36,000 jobs, in the state since 2004, but Washtenaw's unemployment rate of 4.7 percent is among Michigan's lowest. The area is cushioned by the U-M, which employs nearly 32,000 between its campuses and its health system, and other companies like Pfizer. Almost twice as many people drive to Washtenaw County for jobs as leave it for work in other counties.

The ascendant part of the auto industry is drawn to Washtenaw County partly by its proximity to a major university and partly by southeastern Michigan's pool of engineering talent. The Asian automakers and their suppliers are one of the few bright spots in the Midwest's auto economy. Toyota is the biggest example of their growth in this area, but not the only one.

Hyundai Technical Center opened a year ago in Superior Township. It employs 150 people and could eventually have 1,000 jobs. The Korean automaker expects "considerable growth" in its research operations, a spokesman says. In December 2005, Hyundai said it would invest $94 million and add 600 jobs over six years in exchange for $44.6 million in tax credits.

Other Japanese auto companies dot southeast Michigan: Nissan employs 1,000 in Northville; Denso Corporation, one of Toyota's largest suppliers, has 4,000 employees in Michigan; others have offices in Oakland County.

One reason Toyota located its product development headquarters in York Township is that "the only place they could hire automotive engineers is in southeast Michigan," says Sean McAlinden, a research economist with the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor. "There wasn't really a choice." He expects the company's two local research centers to grow to at least 2,000 employees as Toyota adds more facilities, including a wind tunnel.

Toyota's first venture into the U.S. car market, in 1957, was a disaster: the feeble Toyopet sold so poorly that the company withdrew it after a year. But in 1964 the Japanese maker returned with a bigger, more luxurious model, which it followed with a growing line of cars and trucks. By the time the Ann Arbor emissions lab opened in 1972, Toyota was selling more than 300,000 vehicles a year in this country.

At first all Toyotas were imported from Japan, but in 1982 the company joined with GM to revive the California factory that built Warren Chou's Vibe; now it has a dozen manufacturing plants across the country, with more on the way. Of all To-

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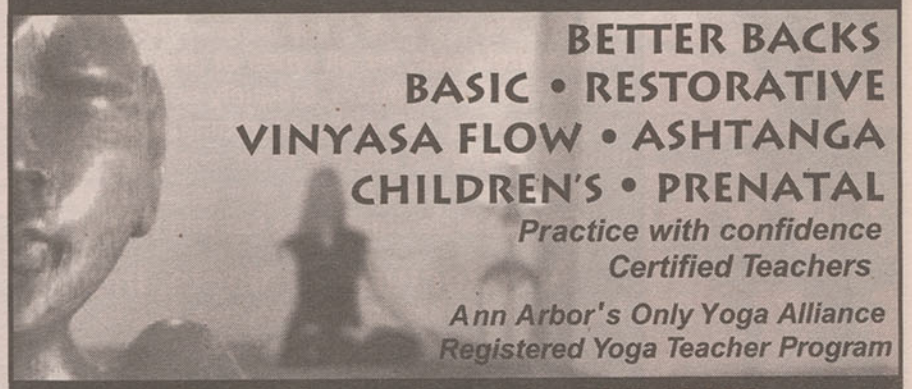

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Changing Gears

yota vehicles sold in North America, two-thirds are built in the United States.

Toyota employed more than 38,000 people in the U.S. in 2005, a gain of nearly 5,000 jobs since 2000. Though most jobs are nonunion, average pay is about the same as at the Big Three, according to a Center for Automotive Research report from 2003.

While American auto companies are shedding thousands of jobs in Michigan, Toyota added 200 employees in the last year in Ann Arbor Township. The company is continuing to hire as it builds its two new York Township buildings—an engineering center and a crash-test facility. The new jobs are going to Americans—the number of Japanese employees in Ann Arbor hasn't changed in years.

The Toyota Technical Center in Ann Arbor Township, collaborating with a Toyota design studio in southern California, a satellite studio in Ann Arbor Township, and a prototype facility in Plymouth, is responsible for the research and design for the new Toyota Tundra pickup, the Avalon, the Solara, and the Sienna minivan—all vehicles created for Americans. It also does smaller amounts of design work on other cars.

In addition, the tech center oversees development of the power train—engine, transmission, and exhaust systems—for all Toyota vehicles built in North America (and a few that aren't). Officials hope that the Toyota Technical Center will also eventually design the RAV4 and more parts of the Camry.

While the Ann Arbor Township lab has increasing responsibility, many decisions are still made by the senior executives in Japan. Randy Stephens, the executive program manager who oversees design and development of Toyota's top-of-the-line Avalon, makes about three trips a year to the headquarters outside Tokyo.

When the current Avalon sedan was being designed here, Stephens recalls, engineers in Ann Arbor had to create "a polite fiction" that it was slightly smaller than Toyota's flagship Lexus LS. And getting approval of the dual chrome exhaust to "flaunt its horsepower" took nine months of convincing and perseverance. The first time management's review of the design came through, Stephens says, their response was that the aggressive look was "too bold." Stephens told them he understood their concerns and went back to his team—not to change the design, but to develop a strategy to sell it to the executives. This happened at least three times before the design was approved. The focus on performance won the Avalon credibility among car enthusiasts. Tepid about the previous model, they have treated the new Avalon with respect.

"Toyota's philosophy is 'We're working on this together,'" Stephens says. All new employees spend two weeks in an orientation session in which they explore Toyota's history, its leadership, its approach to problem solving, and its focus on gathering information and facts. Later, recruits spend two weeks at an auto assembly plant, seeing how the vehicles are made and in many cases working alongside production workers. This is part of Toyota's *genchi genbutsu* approach—a philosophy of urging staffers to see, understand, and verify things for themselves.

A best-selling business book, *The Toyota Way,* explains the company's fourteen guiding principles, including a focus on long-term purpose even at the expense of short-term results, creating a flow to move materials and information rapidly through the organization, and fixing problems quickly and completely. One key component is *obeya* meetings (the Japanese term means "large room"), where all team members discuss issues and root out problems, whether they have to do with a windshield design or a marketing plan. Stephens, who's worked for Toyota for fifteen years, usually goes to at least three or four obeya meetings a week with different teams.

Training and development are important Toyota principles. Warren Chou took classes in CATIA, a computer-aided design program, to obtain Toyota certification for it. "I'm learning the Toyota Way the first year," he says.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"We've been discovered," says York Township supervisor Joe Zurawski. He expects shopping centers and offices to spring up around Toyota's $200 million research and design center.

Toyota spokesman Bruce Brownlee says the culture in the Ann Arbor Township tech center mixes Japanese management principles with some that are decidedly American. Those include an appreciation of a diverse workforce and an understanding that workers need time for families and outside interests. At its headquarters in Toyota City, many workers routinely put in twelve-hour days. Toyota workers here usually do not, but when the company is launching a new vehicle, long hours are common. Nobody's punching a clock.

The same mix of American culture and Japanese work ethic will shape the new facility Toyota is building between Bemis and Willis roads along the west side of US-23. The company is orchestrating everything: a team of people will help decide what the new offices will look and feel like, and how space and energy will be used.

The York Township center will be "a campuslike environment with traditional brick construction," says Robin Haugen, a Toyota manager who is leading the plans for it. There will be plenty of open space.

Toyota has already started work on the 350,000-square-foot main research building, scheduled to open in 2008, that will house engineers and support staff, including Chou, Stephens, and many others who will transfer from the Ann Arbor Township center. The crash-test building will open a year or two later. In the long term, Toyota could move most of its local staff to the York Township campus.

Toyota is paying for half or more of the road improvements around the site. It's also setting aside some acreage for open space and has donated six acres along Willis Road for a park.

"We feel very confident they're going to be good neighbors," says Milan Area Schools superintendent Dennis McComb. The company has donated $20,000 to the schools to improve math and science programs, and McComb expects that Toyota will send technicians and engineers to talk to students on career days and give tours. He also sees the need for new restaurants and possibly a hotel to serve employees and visitors.

Township supervisor Zurawski envisions shopping centers and office complexes springing up around the Toyota campus in the next few years. Some developers are already showing plans to local officials, and an eighty-acre parcel near the tech center site is being rezoned.

No one expects the big Japanese automaker to create enough jobs—or the right kinds of jobs—to hire all those who exit American auto companies. "I believe it will be a smaller auto industry" after all the downsizing is done, says auto expert McAlinden. He also believes a shortage of autoworkers could develop as soon as 2009 after all the retirements and buyouts.

The next generation of workers, however, won't come straight out of high school, as Desautel did. They'll join after they earn college degrees or complete technical training. And many of them will be engineers and designers, like Chou.

"We're going to keep those people busy here," McAlinden predicts. ■

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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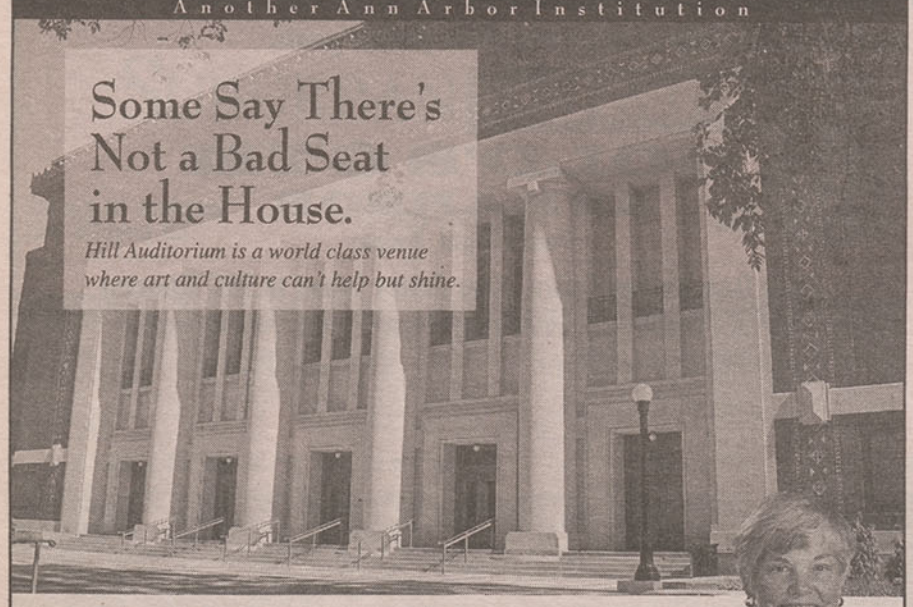

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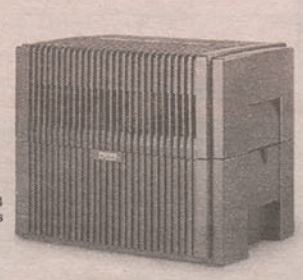

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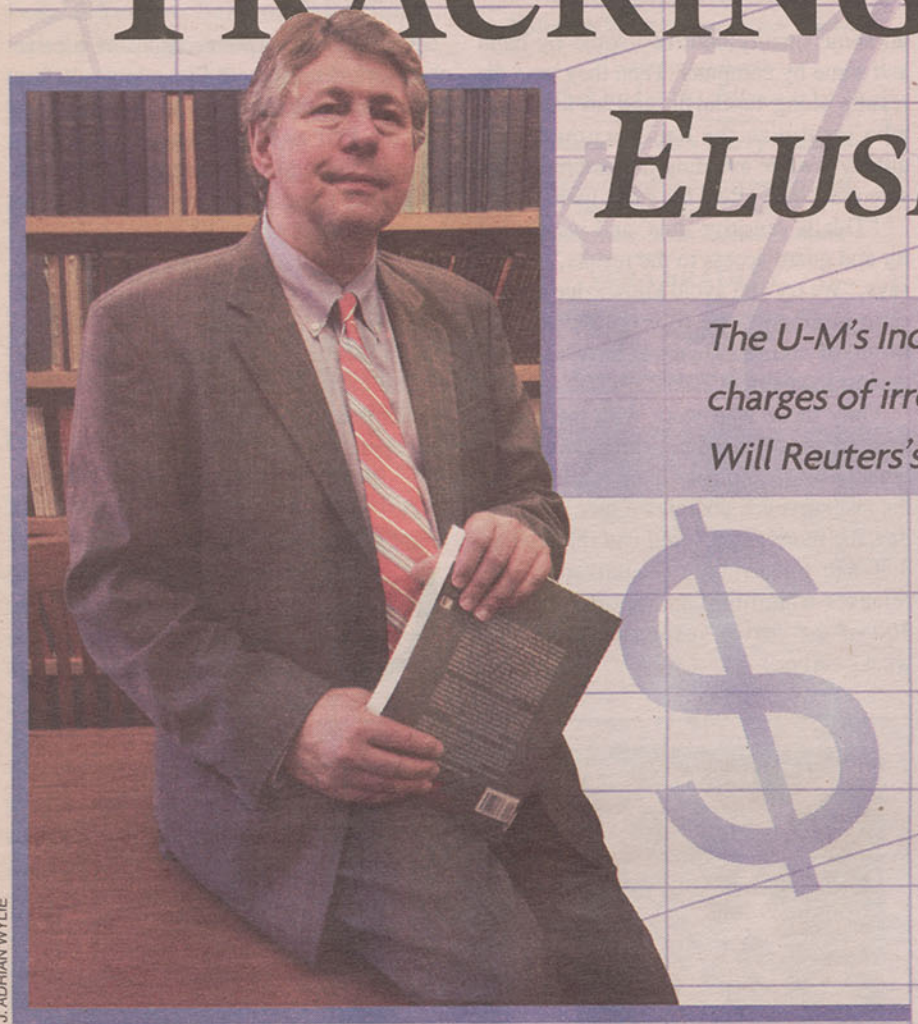

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Richard Curtin has guided the survey for thirty of its sixty years. "We're not just interested in you filling in boxes," he says. "We want to know your opinions, your hopes, and your fears."

The U-M's Index of Consumer Sentiment has faced money woes, charges of irrelevance, and a federal investigation. Will Reuters's million-dollar sponsorship put it back on top?

by Vickie Elmer

Behind a locked door in a nondescript office on Thompson Street, Richard Curtin and two colleagues oversee one of America's best-known measures of the consumer economy. They are careful not to discuss work in progress with their colleagues at the U-M Institute for Social Research, or with friends or family when they leave.

A few blocks away, in the onetime Perry School on Packard, thirty surveyors work the phones. Calling mainly on weekday evenings, they ask 500 Americans each month about their personal finances and the national economy. Investors and economists use the resulting Index of Consumer Sentiment to gauge how Americans feel about inflation, job prospects, buying a car, and other spending decisions. Along with its football team and a few other standouts, the index is one of the university's best-known and most quoted creations.

The U-M survey was established sixty years ago, in 1946. The index debuted in 1952 to focus the attention of the press and the public on a key aspect of the economy—consumer spending decisions—and Curtin has guided it for the last thirty years. As a component in the government's index of leading indicators, its findings are regularly reported on CNBC and in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*.

Yet in recent years, the index has suffered repeated setbacks, including a funding shortfall, questions about its capacity to predict economic activity, and a still unresolved federal investigation—all of which may have undermined its credibility and cachet.

Now, Curtin and university officials believe they have a solution to many of those issues: they've signed media giant Reuters as a name sponsor for the survey. On January 1, in what still is a rarity for the U-M, it will be renamed the Reuters / University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers.

"We looked for decades for someone to give money with no strings attached," says Curtin, a tall man who grew up in New Jersey and favors pinstripe suits. "It [the Reuters sponsorship] allows me to focus more of my time on scientific research rather than managing more than a couple hundred [smaller] sponsors." Among other innovations, Curtin hopes to expand the survey in coming months to collect more information and insights on how Americans' rates of return on investments affect their personal finances and outlooks.

In announcing the deal last July, the two organizations heralded the value of their partnership. Reuters, a news wire service that employs 2,300 journalists around the globe, will pay the university an undisclosed sum exceeding $1 million a year. In addition to having its name on the surveys, Reuters will gain access to a wealth of data. It can use that treasure trove exclusively for six months in its data information dissemination business. And Reuters will handle the release of the main index numbers to the other sponsors, which pay about $5,000 a year for access to the data.

A potential drawback is that other media organizations—including Reuters's key competitors, Bloomberg News and Dow Jones News Service—may decide to downplay the newly renamed consumer surveys just because they carry the Reuters name. News organizations generally ignore their competitors' contests and awards, and though the U-M index has regularly been covered by Bloomberg and Dow Jones in the past, they could give it less ink in the future.

Still, they can scarcely ignore it. Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of all U.S. economic activity, and what consumers think, believe, and buy is vital to the national economy and Wall Street. The U-M index taps into their thoughts and feelings about whether it's a good time (or not) to buy a car, a house, or furniture, or find a new job.

In recent months, consumers have been wary of their prospects, Curtin says, because of the run-up in gasoline prices, falling home values, and what they see as an economic slowdown. "They expect . . . increases in interest rates and higher inflation [in 2007]," he says. "They're slowing down [on purchases], but they're not going to cause the economy to go into an overall downturn." He does expect to see some "adjustments in spending"—buying more energy-efficient cars and heating systems—as consumers adapt to higher oil prices.

Survey interviews may last from seventeen to thirty-five minutes, depending on the extra questions that come from other university professors or projects. (Reuters also has the right to add questions occasionally.) Each interview is logged into the computer and edited and coded by a second staffer to translate the comments into poll answers that can be tabulated and counted.

"We're not just interested in you filling in boxes," Curtin says. "We want to know your opinions, your hopes, and your fears." When he started with the U-M index thirty years ago, 1,200 consumers were contacted for their viewpoints. That number was later reduced to 1,000 and then 700; now it's 500. While he'd like a larger sample size, Curtin says he feels 500 produces a good survey with no worries about sample error.

After the survey interviews are completed, logged, and edited, team members

The FBI and the Securities and Exchange Commission alleged in March 2004 that some sponsors received the index information hours before it was officially released. It's unclear who obtained it and whether they made improper stock trades based on the leak.

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continued

do some quality control—some by hand and some by computer. Then they pass the results along to Curtin and an assistant, who scrutinize the data for trends and quality—while avoiding premature disclosure that could affect the stock market.

"This is sensitive data, and we always try and guard access to the results," Curtin says. "We try and avoid knowledge of specific numbers—we look at the components, of course. Then we have to guard against inadvertent leaks."

Only those who work with the survey have keys to its office—and they move quickly to disseminate their results. After the last survey is completed on a Wednesday, the index is prepared and released by 8:30 a.m. that Friday. (The university also releases a preliminary report based on 300 of the survey responses about two weeks earlier.)

Curtin says corporate sponsors receive the index details about five minutes before the general release to the public and press. Yet the FBI and the Securities and Exchange Commission alleged in March 2004 that some received the information hours before it was to be released. It's unclear who obtained it and whether they made improper stock trades based on the leak. An SEC spokesman and an FBI official in Detroit did not return repeated telephone calls, but Curtin says he understands that the investigation is "officially still open."

Other researchers have questioned the index's ability to predict consumer spending patterns. Dean Croushore, a University of Richmond as-

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Economist Miles Kimball hopes the new Happiness Survey will "drum up some business" for the U-M's survey of consumers—and maybe make a long-term difference in Americans' happiness.

MEASURING HAPPINESS

For sixty years, the U-M Index of Consumer Sentiment has gauged Americans' feelings about their financial prospects. For the last year and a half, it's also tracked their collective happiness.

In summer 2005, four questions—asking whether respondents felt happy or sad, enjoyed life, or were depressed—were added to the monthly consumer sentiment survey. What are they doing there alongside serious questions like whether it's a good time to buy a house? Miles Kimball, a U-M economist who helped create the index, says they're important because consumers spend so much time and money seeking joy.

The Michigan Happiness Index could be the first effort to regularly measure short-term changes to Americans' positive feelings—and link them with world events. For example, Kimball says the Happiness Index fell nationally after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in August 2005. The index recovered within two to three weeks, only to decline again in October when a deadly earthquake struck northern Pakistan and India.

A number of researchers study happiness—how we get it, how we can increase it, how partners and kindness and other things affect it. What's different about Michigan's index is that it measures Americans' happiness week by week over time—and how external events affect it.

The happiness survey grew out of a committee headed by Kimball that was charged with finding "cool things" to add to the consumer sentiment survey that would also bring in funding. Besides the need to "drum up some business" for the survey, Kimball says, he had a couple of other motivations: the feeling that in fifty years, the research could make a difference in Americans' long-term happiness—and a desire for "a few good pointers" on increasing his own happiness.

Kimball believes half the money spent on music, and most spending on psychotherapy, can be credited to the pursuit of happiness. And, he points out, "a great deal of time and money are spent in an effort to get happier through dubious means," like alcohol, drugs, and even "hopeless romantic adventures."

He's not sure what the pursuit of happiness adds to the gross domestic product—that hasn't been calculated yet. But he's sure it's important: "People do a lot of things to make themselves happier."

—V.E.

sociate professor of economics, says that in most cases the U-M index and its chief competitor, from the Conference Board, have fallen after recessions and risen after economic expansions—not before. Croushore, a former economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, says the Michigan index performed worse than the Conference Board's in his unpublished survey. The two often show somewhat contradictory results.

Yet Croushore himself uses the Michigan index and surveys in some research. He says economists and others value the surveys' breadth of questions and their focus on inflation and other consumer worries. Of the two, "the U of M has a lot more beef," he says. "Economists really like the survey and will be glad to have it better funded and available."

Other economists have found that Michigan's index and the Conference Board's do add value in interpreting consumer spending and the consumer economy, but their standing as forecasting tools still is mixed at best. In a paper on the two, Jason Bram, a regional economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, notes that the Conference Board generally predicts consumer spending better than Michigan does. Because of the small sample size, the Michigan data "are more susceptible to measurement error," Bram says. "As a result, random monthly fluctuations tend to be more pronounced in Michigan's index than in the Conference Board's." Some economists say that though they still use the Michigan index, they think its influence and impact have peaked.

Yet consumer feelings matter to companies that court consumer spending dollars—whether they're home builders, Home Depot, or Target's home decor buyers. In all, 150 corporate and individual sponsors have helped to underwrite the surveys over the years. "If they judge the data to be valuable, they help support the research," Curtin says.

Even though they are created behind carefully locked doors, the Michigan consumer surveys and index must unlock and adapt if their insights into consumer spending and attitudes are to remain relevant. "Consumers lead much more complex lives now [than just ten or twenty years ago]," Curtin says.

New questions that ask consumers to assess their level of happiness were added in 2005 (see box, p. 32). Michigan has also created indexes that measure consumers' specific interests in purchasing homes and automobiles, though those statistics are not routinely reported in the media or even by the university itself.

In the future, Curtin envisions adding questions to the surveys that will look at purchases of services—from travel to cleaning—and mining more information on how investment returns affect consumer uncertainty and decision making. With backing from Reuters, he hopes the sixty-year-old survey will be even more innovative and valuable in the years ahead. ■

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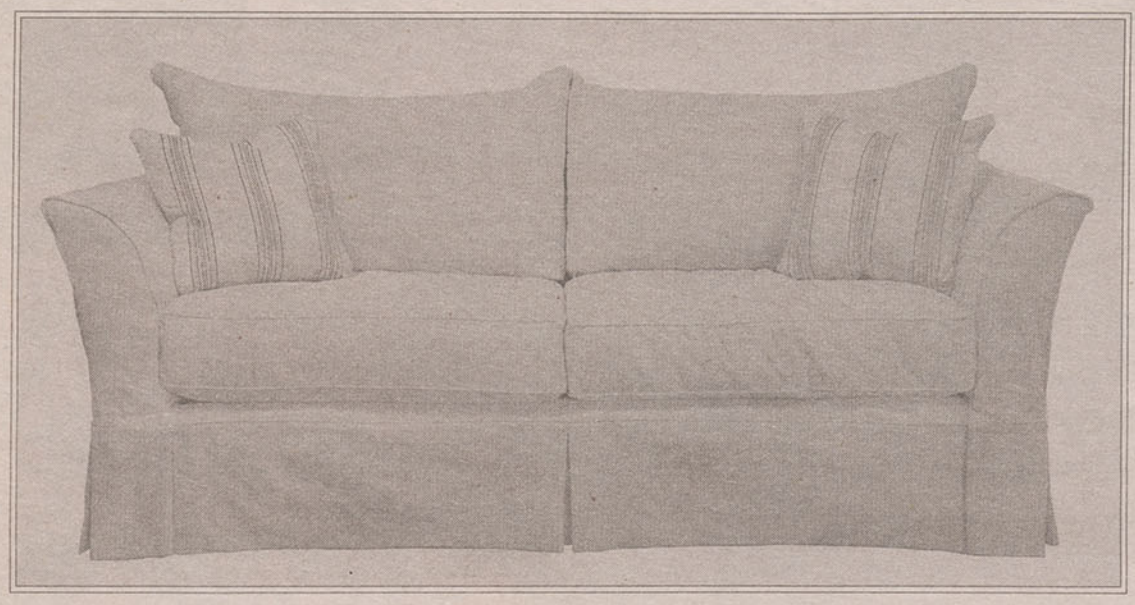

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Echoes of the Poorhouse

Reflections at County Farm Park.

by Josh Warn

Today the barnlike design of the county rec center is the only reminder of the original occupant of its site—the Washtenaw County Poor Farm.

One summer evening, hoping to squeeze in a run before nightfall, I got myself over to County Farm Park. I stretched and trotted off, but by the time I got through the first mile, the clouds of a storm accelerated the fall of darkness. Walking back in the dark through branches flailing in the wind, thunder approaching in the distance, I imagined for a moment past residents of the Washtenaw County Poor Farm resting uneasily.

I've never seen a ghost at County Farm Park, but that wasn't the first time I've felt a link with people who'd been there earlier. Admiring bluebirds on a sunny morning, I've wondered how this landscape looked to the elderly and indigent who in the nineteenth century were sent to the corner of Washtenaw and Platt to labor for their livings.

Pulling weeds in a Project Grow vegetable plot or cooling off after a run in the landscaped acres, I've been tempted to picture the poor farm in a simpler time, when a small community could care for its few unfortunates in a bucolic setting, a time when Ann Arborites didn't need to think about complex social issues. Of course, that romantic picture dissolved upon exposure to evidence from the times when the farm was operating.

Looking into Washtenaw County documents as far back as the 1840s, I saw no tableaux of honest yeomen recovering from setbacks while working the soil. The county annals portray instead meetings where officials grappled with homelessness, funding of public health care, a growing prison population, and care for the aged. Some benefited from the political paybacks and the perks of office, but the social service professionals of the time, part-timers all, kept up a commitment to caring for the county's poor. They had to make deals with the rough world they lived in. Orphan children were bound into indenture—which may have been, for some, a bit like slavery—so that they could be removed from the unwholesome environment of the county farm (and taken off the county rolls). Some county leaders saw their charges as freeloaders, but I found no record of anyone suggesting that the community ignore the needy. Over the years different approaches and different political equilibriums were manifested in the way the farm was run and whom it served. Ironic, then, that this is now the place I go to get away from thinking about contemporary problems—County Farm Park.

Washtenaw County was just fifteen years old when the poorhouse opened, and records make it clear that county leaders were motivated by more than altruism. A public notice in the *Ann Arbor Argus* announced:

> **Paupers! Paupers!**
>
> Notice is hereby given that the Poor House for this county is now ready for the reception of paupers, and that no charges will be paid for supporting any county Pauper elsewhere, (except in the special cases provided by law.)
>
> By order of the Board of Supervisors
> E. W. Morgan, clerk
> Ann Arbor, Michigan 1837

The subtext was probably clear to most of the poor or to their guardians: now that the poorhouse was built, they should resort there for help and no longer bother their neighbors.

In colonial times and in the early nineteenth century, local governments had employed "outdoor relief"—they gave poor folks cash and food, as Catherine Jean Whitaker reports in her 1986 U-M doctoral dissertation, "Almshouses and Mental Institutions in Michigan, 1871–1930." But as populations grew, many formed the opinion that "outdoor relief encouraged drunkenness and idleness," according to Whitaker. The remedy, she says, was the "orderly environment" supplied by "almshouses," which would improve the behavior of inmates by putting them to work. Even before Michigan became a state, the territorial Poor Act of 1830 sought, among other things, to centralize care of the poor at the county level rather than in the townships. In this context, the board of supervisors (ancestor of today's board of commissioners) voted in 1837 to buy 128 acres from David Page to start a county poorhouse.

Government "welfare" payments are sometimes seen as a recent invention, but even 160 years ago, the amounts spent were significant. In 1846, for example, Washtenaw County's tax revenues were $9,539.94 and expenses for the county poor $1,509.94—almost 16 percent of total revenues.

Getting a handle on this expense was one motivation for the establishment of the poorhouse. Another was the desire to prevent abuses. There are references to county supervisors spending large amounts of "temporary relief" funds in the weeks immediately before elections, and also stories of township officials plundering the possessions of incompetent persons in their care. ◗

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Echoes of the Poorhouse

continued

The Poor Act authorized a new county position, "superintendents of the poor," to be appointed by the board of supervisors. A later writer suggested that appointees "should always be men of high character" who would "soon become familiar with the character of the poor" and so be "able to detect tramps and frauds."

In Washtenaw County, to judge from the records of their meetings, the superintendents weren't overly taxed by their duties. Their journals, handwritten in the early years, show that they met monthly at the poorhouse. The most onerous part of the job came in October, when they spent five or six days going over the farm's accounts and assets and preparing the required annual report for the board of supervisors.

In 1868 each of the superintendents received about $100 for his work. By comparison, the (presumably) full-time county clerk and prosecuting attorney each earned $900. The day-to-day management was done by a "keeper" and a "matron," usually the keeper's wife. The matron did the cooking, washing, and cleaning.

The keeper's hands must have been full with the running of the farm. The superintendents' journal for 1848 shows numerous livestock—fifty-five sheep, one yoke of oxen, one pair of two-year-old steers, four cows, two yearling heifers, a horse, fifteen hogs to fatten, two breeding sows, and eight shoats—and fields yielding hay, wheat, corn, beans, and potatoes. Even so, any hopes that the poor would support themselves were not fulfilled: in 1858, one source writes, the farm grew only one-third of the food consumed there.

In April 1852 the superintendents hired a new keeper and matron at a combined salary of $400 a year. At other times the matron's labor was a separate line item, valued at about 60 percent of what her husband earned. Who doubts, though, that the matron worked at least as hard as the keeper? One imagines the late nights with sick residents, the heaps of laundry to do by hand, the distraction of caring for her own children.

Still, the couples' compensation wasn't a bad deal for the times. In the same period, Ann Arbor paid male teachers about $20 per month "exclusive of board," and a carpenter could hope for about $1.25 a day. If the carpenter managed to work every weekday, he would be ahead of the teacher, but far below the keeper and matron.

Some officials found other sources of profit as well. In February 1849 superintendent Norman A. Phelps sold a yoke of oxen to the county for $71, and at about the same time, "The board contracted with Rufus Matthews Esq. to make 10 coffins vary-

ing in size from larger to smaller size and deliver them at the County poor House for $20." Matthews had been a superintendent in the previous year. Even the original purchase of the land for the poor farm looks irregular from this distance, since David Page, who sold the land to the county, was county treasurer at the time. Similar confusions between public service and private business were evidently common, because loomed large in the public's mind. The U-M medical department, already a respected institution by the mid-nineteenth century, was hungry for bodies. Ann Arborites, however, were as fearful as most Americans of the time concerning the use of human remains for scientific examination. In the decades before the "subjects sold" entry, the local newspapers recorded several bursts of public outrage over inci-

I've been tempted to picture the poor farm in a simpler time, when a small community could care for its few unfortunates in a bucolic setting, a time when Ann Arborites didn't need to think about complex social issues. Of course, that romantic picture dissolved upon exposure to evidence from the times when the farm was operating. The county annals portray instead meetings where officials grappled with homelessness, funding of public health care, a growing prison population, and care for the aged.

in 1875 an amendment to the Poor Law forbade counties to purchase goods and services from the superintendents.

When poor farms were founded, there may have been some idea that the inmates would make the places productive by their labor while they were being trained in a healthy lifestyle. In reality, however, most of the inmates were too old, feeble, or sick to be much help. The record of 1916 estimates the "value of inmate labor" to the farm as $100. By comparison, the "product of 100 hens" was valued at $208.66.

But even residents who weren't productive in life might contribute to the poorhouse's finances in death. A superintendents' report dated October 12, 1885, includes a curious line in the income account "Cash for Stock." Underneath the entry "Tallow and hides—$30.91," the keeper lists "Subjects to University—$36.00." If there is doubt about what exact service these "subjects" provided, it is made clear in the "burial account," where the report writer lists:

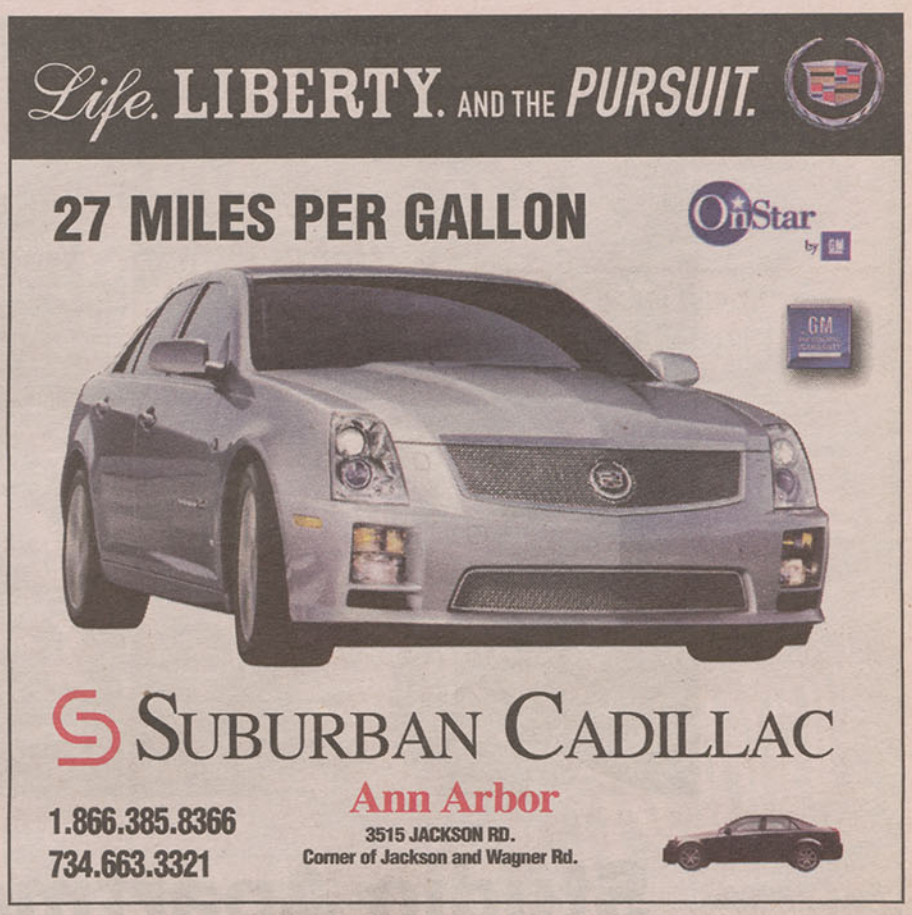
To coffins—$30.00
By subjects sold—$36.00

Though such transactions are uncommon in the county farm records, they dents of grave robbing by "resurrectionists" digging up bodies for dissection.

Buying bodies from the poor farm was one way to avoid such provocations. One anatomy "demonstrator" cautioned that "the receiving point in Ann arbor must be kept calm and friendly. Therefor I allowed no cadaver to be exhumed in Ann Arbor in any circumstances."

That some who died at the poor farm were never buried apparently caused less concern among the public at large. Still, the fate of the dead was one of the disturbing sides of the place. According to a history of the U-M anatomy department, by 1885 the state Anatomy Act directed that "the bodies of persons buried at public expense were to be given over to a practicing physician, preferably to the University Medical Department."

Even now, few people willingly donate their bodies for dissection. In that age, when literal interpretations of the Bible's promises of bodily resurrection were more prevalent, how would people have felt about winding up at a place where one's body might be sold to those who would cut it up? One answer comes from the *Ann Arbor Courier*, which in October 1881 printed an article about a Captain Chafee who died at the Wayne County Insane Asylum and was "consigned to the pickling vats in the University." That so troubled his friends, the paper reported, that they raised money "to give him a decent burial."



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Echoes of the Poorhouse

continued

The superintendents and the keeper also were responsible for the care and education of pauper and orphan children. Yet according to a contemporary who'd looked at the books, "the amount spent on education before 1871 was so small that one wonders whether practically all the children who were sent to the county farm were not immediately apprenticed out."

Indeed, orphans who came under the county farm's care often were sent out as apprentices at very young ages. Their "indentures" legally bound them to work until adulthood for whoever would take them. Though based on the European tradition of craft apprenticeship, the rural version of indenture was much less structured: for boys the skill to be taught was usually "farming," and "housewifery" for girls.

One of the justifications for this practice was that people felt the county house was an unhealthy environment for children. Still, the custom, as seen through the superintendents' reports, has overtones of sadness. In 1852, for example, James and Richard Cuff were both bound to farmers as apprentices. James, nine years old, went in August to Norman Cummings of Sharon Township. Richard, seven, was sent a little later to Northfield Township, almost at the other end of the county. I assume they were brothers. But the report is mute on this question, and says nothing at all about emotional aspects of the separation. We do learn that farmer Cummings agreed with the traditional terms for indenture, promising to release James with two sets of clothes and $25 when he turned twenty-one.

What about the adults who had to stay at the county farm? The categories the recorders used hint at who the residents were and how they were seen by officialdom: residents were identified as either "paupers," "idiots," "blind," or "mute." An 1889 report included a chart purporting to show the "causes of pauperism." "Old age" is the largest category, followed by "vagrancy," "sickness," "weakness of mind," and "insanity."

Supposedly the farm served only county residents, but some paupers did show up who had not established "settlement." They were generally allowed to stay on. And despite the Poor Act's attempt to centralize welfare at the farm, there are numerous records of amounts spent by superintendents of the poor and by other officials to help needy residents with cash outlays. The U-M's Bentley Historical Library has a collection of the records of Lorenzo Davis, a farmer and clergyman who was a superintendent of the poor in the 1880s. Davis was also a trustee for Ann Arbor Township. His handwritten receipts and voucher forms include such expenditures as "Joseph Donnely and 6 children, wood and provisions: $20.03" and a ledger tracking money given to "Mrs.

The Cadaver Trade

Attitudes toward medicine and beliefs about the nature of the human body evolved as the Washtenaw County Farm morphed from the poor farm into the county infirmary. The legality of allowing medical students to cut up the bodies of paupers varied over time. Public attitudes changed less speedily. Most people associated the study of human anatomy with grave robbing, and at one point in the first half of the nineteenth century, Ann Arbor townspeople were literally up in arms over what the leader of one demonstration called "the butcher shop of human flesh" in their midst. "Anatomy riots" broke out elsewhere in the United States and in England under similar circumstances.

In most places it was illegal to dissect human bodies except those of executed criminals. Still, medical students needed cadavers in order to develop hands-on familiarity with the body, and the U-M, seeking to attract students, stated in its catalog of 1853 that there was an ample supply of "materials" available, and for prices as low as at competitive schools. How the university got the supplies was not discussed; boasting of corpses delivered in barrels marked Pickles would have been impolitic. But later memoirs by graduates and staff of the university medical department show the determination, ingenuity, and audacity required by those pursuing medical knowledge in those times.

The questionable legal position of those early anatomists was expressed by one of the university's anatomy "demonstrators," Edmund Andrews: "I was a state officer charged with the duty of getting the material, but there was a statute consigning me to prison if I did my duty." Andrews is quoted by Donald Huelke in his *History of the Department of Anatomy, the University of Michigan, 1850–1959*. Huelke draws on a slew of other memoirs and documents to fill in gaps in our knowledge that we may have preferred to leave vacant.

According to Huelke, one of the earliest professors of anatomy was so aware of the difficulty of procuring bodies that he arrived in 1852 with a body in a long bag in his luggage. Other "unofficial" stories about this professor, Dr. Gunn, portray him forcibly removing forty bodies from the medical department when he left in 1867 for a new job in Chicago. He is said to have shipped the "material," the university's entire supply, to Rush Medical College, his destination. Supposedly, when the U-M regents threatened legal action, Gunn held up the possibility that he would expose the unsavory methods used to procure the bodies.

These methods were about as ghastly as the alarmed citizenry supposed. In 1857 an insensitive grave robber, never identified, left a half-filled grave in a local cemetery surrounded by scattered pieces of the coffin and shroud. A mob formed and developed the purpose of burning down the medical department, but according to Huelke, a determined guard "of one hundred armed medics" patrolled the campus until tempers cooled and the crowd dispersed. Another incident made the Ann Arbor papers in 1857 when the deputy sheriff of Jackson County followed some grave robbers, who happened to be dentists, to an Ann Arbor hotel. He managed to arrest some of the gang and recovered the stolen bodies from some medical students.

One student even provided his own cadaver. In 1876, Henry Mason Wheeler was home for the summer in Northfield, Minnesota, when the Jesse James gang tried to rob a local bank. In the ensuing gunfight Wheeler managed to shoot one of the gang.

Wheeler later dug up the bodies of two robbers, including the man he himself had killed. He had the "material" shipped to Ann Arbor in a barrel marked Fresh Paint. According to William Holtz's 1967 *Michigan Quarterly Review* article "Jesse James and the Medical School," Wheeler dissected the man he had shot—and later displayed the skeleton in his office in North Dakota.

—J.W.

White (colored) for care of Thornton children @ $3.50/week." Other sources show that as late as 1916, payments were made to Saline and Sylvan townships "for tramps."

Then as now, some taxpayers were suspicious that their funds were supporting freeloaders. It must be a natural human response to resent people who might be getting something for nothing, even when we don't envy their state in life. These issues affected nineteenth-century politics as well. At a county board meeting in October 1878, Supervisor Kraft noted that the county had furnished $177.40 worth of tobacco to residents of the poorhouse in the previous year. He proposed that a $50 limit be set for the coming year's tobacco expenses. Others on the board must have seen the move as harsh, because the motion failed to pass—though the supervisors did enjoin the superintendents of the poor not to furnish tobacco to "any but the resident poor."

There was broader concern with what the newspapers called "the tramp question." In the 1870s, especially during the crisis years of 1876 and 1877, people began to notice the multitude of men on the road looking for work. New Jersey passed a "tramp act" in 1876, making it illegal to live that way—but, according to one writer, the jails and workhouses were soon so overcrowded that the sheriffs had to quit bringing in new arrestees.

Washtenaw County was not overrun in the same way, but the phenomenon was noticed. In 1884 a Mr. Wheeler from the Special Committee on the Tramp Nuisance reported to the board of supervisors that by appointing a prosecutor to look after tramps and disorderly persons the

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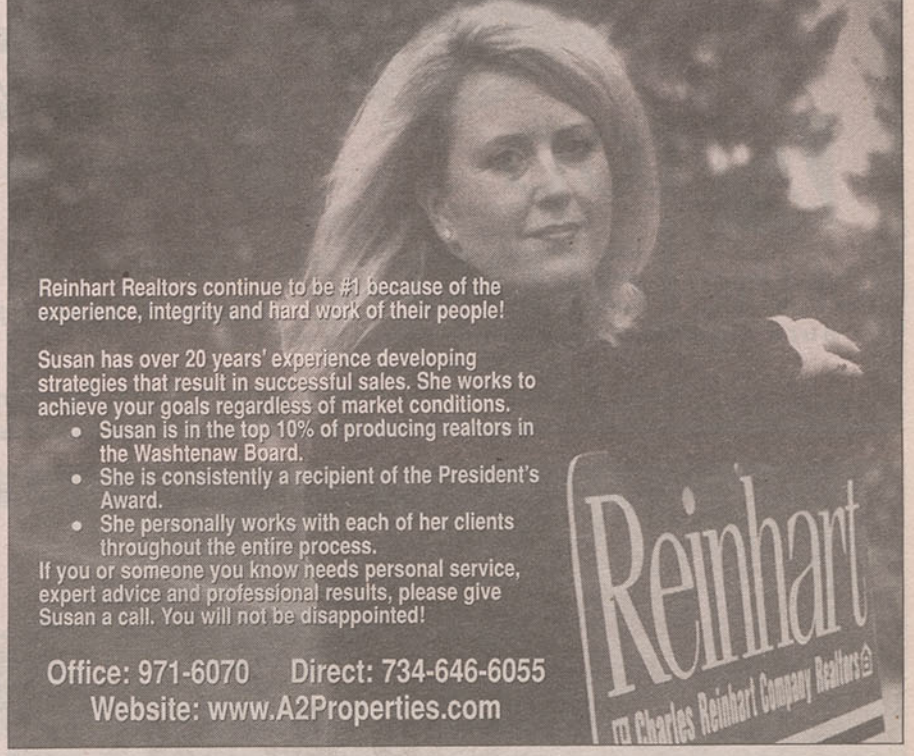

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Echoes of the Poorhouse

continued

county saved $5,773.76 in four months, because previously an independent lawyer had handled each prosecution. Wheeler's indignation was directed not just at the tramps but also at some other diners at the public trough—the lawyers "who have heretofore looked on a tramp as an article of merchandise, valuable solely for the money that could be made out of his prosecution." It's hard to verify Mr. Wheeler's numbers after 122 years, but the money discussed might have been considered more than a "nuisance" amount. The county finances, reported in the *Ann Arbor Courier* in January 1882, stood at "$30,214.80 cash on hand and in the bank; Liabilities, $94,918.37."

Public concern that aid should go to the deserving poor is reflected in an 1885 committee report recommending that "an equivalent in labor be exacted of able-bodied tramps for all relief afforded." I have not found evidence of how or whether this labor was obtained.

Even before the end of the nineteenth century, it became clear that the county farms were taking care of more elderly and mentally disabled people. A report of the Michigan Board of Corrections and Charities in 1884 mentions that extra labor connected with "insane females committed to the county poorhouse" adds $1 per week to the average cost of keeping inmates, "making the weekly expense of these lunatics $2.25." (The extra work seems to have paid off: the state board also reported in 1883–1884 that the Washtenaw farm was "one of the best kept and managed poorhouses in the State," adding in 1889–1890 that it was "as clean as soap and water can make it.")

The Committee on Public Buildings reported in 1884 that the farm structures were in good condition but that the facility needed to be expanded to accommodate syphilitics, "as the disease is so offensive and dangerous." The committee recommended "that any inmate suffering from so loathsome a disease should be placed in apartments separate and apart."

At the same time that the numbers of infirm inmates were growing, the concept of poverty was evolving. People began to think about poverty and vagrancy as conditions associated with larger social and economic phenomena. One writer points out that the word *unemployment* came into use in the 1890s. While Americans still associated poverty with personal shortcomings such as laziness, they were growing aware that recessions and industrial and financial failures also affected people's ability to earn a living.

As the nineteenth century passed, the state developed specialized institutions to deal with some of the populations that the county farms housed. Insane asylums opened at Pontiac and Kalamazoo. A state

school in Coldwater took in children without families. In Flint an institution for the blind was established. Once the county began sending residents to these places, the proportion of those remaining at the county farm who were elderly and in poor health increased. There was less chance than ever that these inmates could keep the farm productive.

At the same time, and understandably, the medical aspect of the facility grew. By 1916 the place was called simply the Washtenaw County Infirmary. As the medical services provided there grew more diverse and professional, it made more sense economically to hire a staff doctor than to pay local doctors to call on patients at the farm.

> In 1884, the Special Committee on the Tramp Nuisance complained that local lawyers "have heretofore looked on a tramp as an article of merchandise, valuable solely for the money that could be made out of his prosecution."

Around the turn of the century county officials began talking about the benefit of centralizing the medical services the county provided. In the fall of 1904 there was a campaign to erect a county hospital. One of the proponents pointed out that "contagious disease bills of the city had become as large as the bills for criminal prosecutions." A deal was worked out with the U-M whereby the medical department would contribute to the building fund and then use the hospital as a teaching facility. The politics and economics did not work out then, but eventually, in 1915, aided by a legacy from Louis Yearger, the supervisors voted to build a new county hospital on the grounds of the county farm. In 1917 the supervisors awarded the construction contract to Koch Building and Supply Co. of Ann Arbor, which had submitted the lowest bid, $67,347. Work was slowed by some debate about where to locate the building, but the hospital opened in 1919 and served Washtenaw County for more than fifty years.

Like the poor farm, the county hospital was a charitable institution: it was not the hospital of choice for people who could afford to go elsewhere. And well into the twentieth century the infirmary still functioned as a residence for paupers as well. The 1926 journal of the superintendents of the poor includes a list of rules, the first of which states, "The inmates of the Infirmary shall perform manual labor under the direction of the keeper, unless prevented by illness." Inmates could not leave without permission, and the keeper was given authority "to enforce obedience by confinement, or by keeping the refractory on bread and water."

Still, the infirmary was viewed positively by its staff and attracted community support. There were 500 to 600 women volunteers in the 1960s, according to Robert Reynolds, a supervisor interviewed by the *Ann Arbor News* in 1966. Still, unfavorable perceptions lingered: in that article, Reynolds denied that it was "a place where indigents come to die. Of 108 patients discharged in 1965 only 44 were deceased." He also stated, "We are here to rehabilitate. This is not a nursing home." There was, however, a Miss Wane Gardner, who had been a patient for twenty-one years.

In the 1960s, federal support for health care through Medicare and Medicaid made county hospitals less necessary. The new programs allowed the elderly and the poor to obtain health care from some of the same providers as people with money or health insurance, because the government would pay.

In 1967 the state ordered the hospital closed, ending a 130-year tradition of caring for the needy and infirm at that location. The county planned to remodel the building for office space, and voters approved a $600,000 millage for that purpose in 1972, but somebody forgot to keep the heat on that winter or to keep a security presence. By 1973 vandalism, frozen pipes, and other winter damage had left the place a shambles. Shortly afterward, it was torn down.

If there's a revelation in the history of the county farm, it's that the struggle we still wage to take care of our neighbors was no simpler for Washtenaw County's pioneers. The hints in the record of people serving charitably for mixed motives, and of politically ordained solutions crafted to cope with changing social trends, make these forerunners seem pretty modern.

Seeing earlier generations struggle with their limited resources, their ever-changing problems, and their political obstacles, I gain a little more respect for contemporary human institutions. Our understanding is partial, our methods flawed, and there's not enough money or the political consensus to implement them anyway. But those who care and keep trying should be respected for making their small steps to improve, or at least maintain, civilization.

In the meantime, what I've learned about Washtenaw County Farm history doesn't diminish the pleasure of taking a break from all these sticky issues in the County Farm Park. ■

Thanks to the U-M's Bentley Historical Library and Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, the Ann Arbor District Library, and the Washtenaw County Archives.

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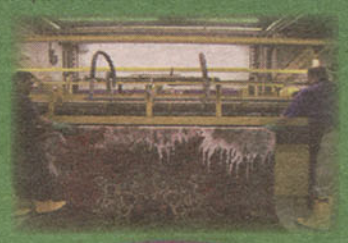

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Lois, a retired school teacher, and Jeremiah, a full-time father, and homemaker, talk about the environmental aspects of living at Touchstone Cohousing in Ann Arbor.

Lois says: It means a lot to me that my home is extremely energy efficient. My home is so well insulated that I am paying less for heat. A study of a similar cohousing neighborhood near Denver (the size of Touchstone) showed utility bills were half those of neighboring homes. We often share rides to the airport, and to shopping—so we strengthen our friendships while reducing our gas consumption.

Jeremiah responds: I like our commitment to a clean atmosphere in the neighborhood. Our houses are healthier because they have less off-gassing than the typical newly built homes. And with my neighbors, we have agreed by consensus not to use herbicides or pesticides on plants, lawns or gardens. Also, because of the harmful effects we do not use laundry products that have fragrances, which makes it possible for the growing number of folks who have chemical sensitivity issues to live here.

Laura and Joe appreciate the fact that the neighborhood is oriented to people of all ages, creating a real sense of village. As a result, the way people relate and the commitment to be part of the community makes it possible to live a much healthier life style. Children play, not wanting to spend as much time watching TV or playing with electronic games. It's remarkable how much easier it is to play in the neighborhood when cars are not the dominant issue since the garages and parking are on the perimeter. After a busy day I love being able to eat some of the delicious optional dinner meals each week. This makes it easy to maintain connections with neighbors and not have to cook all the meals. Parents can easily share child care tasks with others in the neighborhood. Seniors can connect about their issues, but also play roles as mentors to the children in the "village."

As a member of this living cohousing community, I own my home, and still feel the many ways that we create this village feel—where we are all in it together.

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Of Sinking Buildings & Smoking Ghosts

The urban legends of Ann Arbor.

by Stefan Kiesbye

THIS TABLET
ERECTED BY CITIZENS OF ANN ARBOR 1924 COMMEMORATES THE
FOUNDING OF THIS CITY ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO. NEAR THIS SPOT
STOOD A RUSTIC ARBOR COVERED WITH WILD GRAPE-VINES. HERE
ANN ALLEN AND ANN RUMSEY THE WIVES OF JOHN ALLEN AND
ELISHA WALKER RUMSEY MET FREQUENTLY FOR REST AND RECREA-
TION. THE ARBOR WAS CALLED ANNS ARBOR AND FROM IT IN HONOR
OF THESE PIONEER WOMEN THE CITY RECEIVED ITS NAME.

A U-M flag circled the moon, but despite our Photoshopped illustration, never landed. This downtown plaque is just wrong—the city is not named for a grape arbor.

In Berlin in the 1980s, a friend of mine told me the story of her friend's friend's potted palm tree—how an ominous ticking started to come from its roots, and days later several baby tarantulas spewed forth. Of course I believed my friend; after all, many of my acquaintances had heard the same story. Only years later did I learn I'd been fooled by an urban legend—a false but fascinating tale that almost always concerns a "friend of a friend." Try to trace it, and you'll discover that your friend's friend is harder to find than a $21 bill.

Now I live in Ann Arbor, a city with its own urban legends. And here, they start at the beginning: our town even has a creation myth to explain its unique name. A tale of founders' wives Ann Allen and Mary Ann Rumsey is immortalized in a "historical" marker downtown and is still happily spread, as a "theory," by the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. In the bureau's version (echoed by many, many Ann Arborites), the pioneer women worked together "enlarging and beautifying the wild grape arbor on the bank of a creek where they spent long afternoons together knitting, mending and eventually the whole settlement was called Ann Arbor."

A nice thought, to be sure, especially since John Allen never recorded why he decided to call the place "Annarbour." But history *is* clear that Ann Allen didn't arrive in the village until three months after the name was registered in 1824. So while her name most likely had something to do with the name of the town, the grape arbor and the knitting surely didn't.

Another form of urban legends, or "bromides," as local historian Wystan Stevens calls them, are not believed by anyone and yet are persistently recycled and retold. The giant M in the center of the Diag, for example, mustn't be touched before a student's first exam, or she'll fail it. This particular legend has mutated; the alleged consequences for stepping onto the M now include failing all finals or flunking school entirely.

Generations of incoming students were informed that the puma statues in front of the natural history museum would either chase after or growl at a virgin, should she walk between them. The original terra-cotta cats were removed last year, to be replaced by more durable bronze replicas; presumably, once installed, they will take over the task of embarrassing inexperienced passersby. Another sculpture is also the subject of campus legend: it's claimed that the U-M's president starts the university each morning by spinning the fifteen-foot-high Cube on Regents Plaza. Such myths share a lot with Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny: though no one takes them literally, they die harder than Bruce Willis, because they are too charming to be killed off.

Generations of students were informed that the puma statues in front of the natural history museum would either chase after or growl at a virgin, should she walk between them.

Other tall tales are harder to see through. When I arrived in Ann Arbor as a graduate student, I was told that the U-M doesn't close for snow days because several years ago, law students sued the university after one such snow day, demanding to be reimbursed for their lost tuition money.

It sounds like a revealing tale of our litigious times—but it, too, turns out to be an urban legend. Staff at the U-M president's office say they've never heard of such a lawsuit. Neither has Dave Reid, the U-M's director of human resource communications. The office of the general counsel searched their records and came up empty handed.

I couldn't help feeling cheated when I learned the story wasn't true. But at least I'm not alone: a quick Internet search reveals that the same tale is told at almost every snow-blown campus in the nation.

It's astonishing how such stories spread worldwide yet always are supposed to have happened just around the corner. Palm-tree tarantulas were rumored about in other places besides 1980s Berlin, and yet the myth presented itself as a townie.

Other scary stories soon to come to a household near you: Two-Striped Telamonia spiders hiding under toilet seats in public restrooms (false, according to snopes.com); e-mails asking you to sign up with the National Do Not Call Registry or else telemarketers will call your cell (false again); and e-mails that appear to be coming from fraud investigators but are really a trap to get you to divulge financial information (true).

Fred Mayer, university planner emeritus, heard the same rumor every time a new tall building went up in his thirty-seven-year career in Ann Arbor: "The architect really screwed up. The building is tilting." When new, the Dennison Building and the Fleming Administration Building both were said to stand at an unhealthy angle and to be slowly sinking.

Another recurrent rumor has it that the Fleming Building was specifically designed to keep student protesters at bay.

PHOTOS: MOON, COURTESY NASA; PLAQUE AND CUBE, GRIFFIN LINDSAY

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Of Sinking Buildings & Smoking Ghosts

While the layout of the structure, with its slit windows and overhung entrances, might seem to warrant that claim, a look at architect Alden Dow's oeuvre quickly dispels such notions. Fleming is only one of many buildings he designed with heavy masonry bases, and in any case, university officials point out, the building was designed long before the student protests of the late 1960s.

If you stroll along the Diag and see the large flagpole, a friend might tell you that it is a mast of the USS *Maine*, whose sinking in Havana Harbor in 1898 ignited the Spanish-American War. The pole indeed looks like a mast, and even though the legend is false, the truth is almost as

The Diag flagpole is a not mast of the USS Maine—but it did come from the 1893 Columbian Exposition.

astonishing. The pole reached Ann Arbor by way of Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

Another local favorite has it that two Apollo astronauts planted a Michigan flag on the moon. According to tour guides and many proud students, in 1971 Michigan alumni James Irwin and David Scott displayed a U-M flag on the lunar surface. Is this true? Almost. According to the *Michigan Daily* and the late Harm Bunning, professor of aerospace engineering, twenty miniature Michigan flags actually made it into the spacecraft that orbited the moon. None, however, left Apollo 15, and none was planted on the surface. Still, the story isn't going to die anytime soon, since Irwin and Scott did open the University of Michigan Club of the Moon, which remains an official chapter of the alumni association.

Even many off-campus legends focus on Ann Arbor's high level of education. But do we really buy more copies of the *New York Times* than of the *Ann Arbor News*? We don't. An astonishing 30,000 copies are printed of the *Times* Sunday edition (by the *News*, no less) for Ann Arbor and Michigan, but even if every copy stayed in town, twice as many readers gobble up the local Sunday paper.

And what about bookstores? Do we really have more bookstores per capita than any other American town? Not so fast. Charlottesville and Seattle also make that claim, as does Berkeley. Whom to believe? Central Connecticut State Univer-

GRIFFIN LINDSAY

GRIFFIN LINDSAY

After Lori Wintermeyer bought the house at 206 West Davis, the daughter of the previous owner said, "Oh, you've bought the haunted house."

sity publishes a list of the most literate cities; its president, John Miller, awards the top bookselling spot to San Francisco (Seattle takes the prize for overall literacy). Too bad that Miller's list doesn't include any city with a population less than 250,000.

If there's no proof, hearsay will have to do. A quick Internet search for the terms "Ann Arbor" and "bookstores per capita" turns up all sorts of boasts backed up by all sorts of waffling attributions—"It's been said," "I read somewhere once," or "Someone else reports that they read somewhere recently." Ouch. Legend, legend, legend. At Motte & Bailey I heard another, attributed to a local publisher—that more books are printed between Detroit and Manchester than anywhere else on the planet. There are indeed tons of printers in this area—but such a sweeping claim is just about impossible to prove or disprove.

Researching Ann Arbor's myths, I had hoped to come across something dark and sinister, and I soon thought I had been rewarded. My first lead was the ghost of a Huron High student who was supposedly haunting the school's theater. It was said that the girl died in a fall onstage years ago and still revisits the building, scaring student cast and crew alike.

A scary scenario—but how to prove or disprove it? No one at the school returned my call about the haunting, and silence feeds suspicion. But then the story fell apart: Al Gallup, who was assistant principal at Huron when the fatal fall supposedly occurred, says it never happened. No death, no ghost.

Finally, though, Lori Wintermeyer, the owner of Ann Arbor Framing Co., came to my rescue. She had the story I was hoping for—hard to research, hard to prove or disprove, but ghostly. Wintermeyer owns her store, and in the early 1990s she also bought the house right around the corner at 206 West Davis. As she tells the story, the daughter of the previous owner, one Ms. P., approached her afterward and said, "Oh, you've bought the haunted house."

Wintermeyer hadn't heard anything about a haunting—but years earlier, she had discovered a woman, a former resident of the house who committed suicide while parked in the house's driveway. The woman had left a note, run a vacuum hose from her exhaust pipe to a window, and died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Afterward Ms. P.'s father, a funeral director, had bought the house without knowing its history.

When her family lived there, Ms. P. told Wintermeyer, they heard weird noises and slamming doors for which they had no explanation. And one night, a friend thought he saw Ms. P. smoking on the front porch as he pulled into the driveway. When he approached the front entrance, though, the woman he'd seen was gone.

"Why did you go inside?" he asked Ms. P.

"I wasn't outside," she replied.

"But I just saw you—you were having a smoke," he insisted. "You were wearing a blue down coat."

Ms. P. told Wintermeyer that though she repeated her denial, her friend was unconvinced.

On hearing Ms. P.'s story, Wintermeyer recounted the story of the suicide. Before the woman died, Wintermeyer had often seen her smoking on the front porch. Her boyfriend hated her habit, and she wanted to spare him.

In the summer it was no big deal, but in the fall and winter it was too cold to just step out on the porch. So she wore a big blue down coat against the chill. ■

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Mélange

Multiculti

JOHN COPLEY

During a late-night ramble along Main Street in November, we passed the then-not-yet-officially-open Mélange. On the spur of the moment, we decided to crash a private preopening party. It seemed like a good omen that the staff encouraged us to come in and look around at the surprising new digs they've tunneled into the subsidewalk underworld.

They took four months to remove 800 cubic yards of soil and boulders, adding three feet of height to the spot last occupied by the Bird of Paradise. A sleek wine cellar behind glass soars into the air space. Materials are appropriately earthy: zebrawood, leather, bamboo. Colors are drawn mostly from nature's beige-brown palette interspersed with flashes of red-orange and metallic tones. Deep circular booths line one wall like luxurious padded cells fitted with buttery cushioned leather. The lighting, dramatic and spare, simmers from behind shoji-inspired bamboo fixtures. It's so dark down there that servers carry light-up pens and offer little flashlights to patrons who can't see the menu. The overall effect is visually stunning, modern in that way that makes you excited by if a little edgy about the future. It's disorienting to not know when or where you are. This could be day or night, Prague or Sydney.

This sleek, swirling, multiculti world plays out in the name, Mélange (from the French, "a mixture of incongruous elements"), and on the menu. It's perhaps too soon for the definitive review of this young bistro, but after three visits during its first month in business, I would say I hope the chef, John Weiszer, won't retreat to a safe culinary niche as I've seen chefs at other new restaurants do. I liked his ambitious opening menu (mostly).

We started with the "river rock" appetizer. No, it's not zero-calorie roughage for aspiring mannequins. The river rock is a tabletop grill of sorts—a bamboo steamer basket that contains one beautiful smooth sizzling hot stone on which you sear thin slices of choice raw beef for a few seconds. It's an interesting concept, and tasty, though the wan *ponzu* sauce didn't stand up to the steak and dramatic presentation. Similarly, the tender, flash-fried calamari came up somewhat short; it needed more of an acid counterpoint than the scanty artichoke vinaigrette provided. In contrast, the seared twin scallops' multilayered sauce of tamarind, chilies, ginger, garlic, and lemongrass made the plump shellfish even more desirable. Four shrimp wrapped in phyllo found their complement in a sweet-plum-and-wasabi sauce. Best of all: beef Thai rolls composed of strips of grilled flank steak rolled around crunchy carrot strips, daikon radish, and mint leaves with a modestly peppery peanut sauce.

The appetizers we chose highlighted a potential pitfall of the Mélange concept. Our table of four had mostly gravitated toward the Asian flavors on the menu in selecting our starters, until we added the "scoozie"—flat bread stuffed with Gorgonzola cheese, deep fried, and topped with a tomato relish. It might not have been bad on its own, but it didn't work at all with our other appetizers. As with any interesting night out, part of the responsibility here falls on the diner—it's up to you to choose wisely from the fusion menu.

Among the entrees, I loved the *ping* fillet—a fabulous, fork-tender ten ounces of beef with an imaginative ping sauce of soy, hoisin, cognac, and ginger with dark chocolaty undertones. Try this one with a big red wine (there are 23 wines by the glass and 154 by the bottle). The other fillet preparation, topped with melted Gorgonzola and crispy fried onions, is good as well, but not as exciting as that wild ping.

Mélange's seafood explores more corners of the flavor world. A sea bass was airy and subtle, with crisped, impeccably fresh fish surrounded by "crazy water"—a delicate concoction a little denser than a broth. A thick slab of ahi tuna was grilled to just barely medium rare, as requested, and boosted by a citrus-ginger sauce. The duck breast, however, was surprisingly uninspired; I had already come to expect more of this kitchen. The only true dud among the entrees I sampled was the leek-pasta dish, a one-note, off-key tune of baby-food textures and an insipid béchamel.

With all entrees, the sides were good and fresh and generally included whole baby carrots and crisp haricots verts. While all the food was arranged prettily on sleek white china, the staff outdid themselves on presentation with the "chicken parasol supreme," a chicken breast in a mushroom demi-glace adorned with crispy waffle-cut potato gaufrettes.

Desserts generally aimed to bring in the sort-of-Asian theme, and pulled it off best in a coconut bread pudding with a gorgeous texture and light crème anglaise. A silken Thai lime cheesecake was plated with a ribbon of lime-raspberry cream. My favorite, though, was the frankly Western and darkly fudgy chocolate ganache with a swirl of raspberry coulis.

The servers are young but well versed in the food and, to a lesser extent, the wine. (Manager Terry Martin is an old hand who has run several Ann Arbor restaurants, most recently Rush Street next door.) They work hard, and we appreciated the extra touches—for instance, they pour wines ordered by the glass directly from the bottle at the table. The front and back of the house are in synch; pacing at three dinners was perfect.

After dinner, you can wander over to the lounge with its dramatic thirty-seven-foot-long onyx bar, on occasion illuminated by three flat-panel televisions that float spectrally above. Stashed way back in the corner of the lounge is a minuscule stage area for low-key live music. The lounge scene starts to perk up after 10, and draws a crowd decidedly younger and prettier than the dining clientele (at least I think

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it is—it's even darker over there, and I couldn't exactly ask the waiter to borrow his menu-reading flashlight).

This new place, this high-energy crowd of young strangers, felt like a metaphor for our town. I thought of the changing horizons—the advent of Google, the lofts, high- or at least mid-rises—that will give the Ann Arbor 2007 skyline a more urbane dimension, mirrored by who knows how many changes below the surface. It should be an interesting year.

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Seva

Veggie comfort

With the mix of buildings and businesses on East Liberty tipping ever more in favor of the new, it seemed like time to check in on one of the old-timers in our cityscape. I was grudgingly admiring the handsome lines of the just-finished LoFT 322 condos as I made my way into Seva next door. Pausing for a minute on the restaurant's broad deck, I almost laughed out loud. There's a giant built-in peace symbol on the side of 322 that faces Seva, as if in homage to the neighbor's sensibilities.

Ann Arbor's only full-service exclusively vegetarian restaurant, Seva is such a piece of counterculture nostalgia I sometimes imagine a cast of R. Crumb characters in the kitchen—maybe Mr. Natural slinging tofu hash and cranking out breakfast all day. The light and buoyant dining room may have undergone an occasional remodel since it opened in 1973, but with its wooden tables, sunlight filtered through stained glass, and plants in hanging baskets, the aesthetic and ambience are pure vintage. It is remarkably without pretense.

The eight-page menu is a collection of dishes from around the world—a bit of Asian, a touch of North African, a smattering of Mediterranean, and a lot of quasi-Mexican. The emphasis is more on ingredients than on authenticity, and the general effect tends more toward midwestern comfort food than exotic delicacy.

Portions are colossal, and you won't need an appetizer. However, if you are in the mood to indulge, the basket of yam fries makes a delicious starter: fresh cut, skin on, and crisp, they're neatly enhanced by a spicy mayonnaise dipping sauce. The fries are also available as an upgrade with any of the eight sandwiches, including my Seva favorite—the portobello mushroom burger. In fact, I'd take that a step farther and name this my all-time favorite veggie burger. It doesn't fall into the fake-meat trap of textured soy proteins or grain burgers; it's simply one juicy, giant mushroom, char-grilled and topped with smoky, gooey mozzarella and all the standard hamburger flourishes—a slice of red onion, lettuce, and tomato on a whole-wheat bun. The veggie Reuben is a similar reminder that often the embellishments, rather than the meat, make the sandwich. With a heaping of tangy kraut, Swiss cheese, and smoked mozzarella on grilled rye, who needs corned beef?

Seva also has a number of more ambitious entrees. The popular enchiladas calabaza topped with tomato sauce carries a range of flavors—the spicy sauce is a fine foil for the sweet butternut squash filling. The macaroni and cheese special is an excellent rendition of this classic combo with a crisp, baked-on crust that gives way to slippery noodles creamy with mascarpone and Fontina cheese. But some main courses suffer from overkill with a single flavor—the tempeh taco's heavy tomato sauce overpowered the accompanying corn salsa, black beans, and sour cream. And others, like the spinach enchilada, take the safe route of big and bland. The corn tortillas stuffed with spinach puree, mushrooms, and cheese lack contrasting textures, and the spicing is more Anglo than Latin American.

People fill the dining room at lunch most workdays for the popular Monday–Friday lunch specials ($7.75 for a soup-sandwich, soup-salad, or salad-sandwich). Seva also is one of the few places in town that offer a special brunch menu on Saturday as well as Sunday—and that's in addition to its all-day, every-day breakfast menu. The eggs Veracruz plate is a well-rounded assemblage, with two eggs, refried beans, and a first-rate guacamole. Seva offers superb fresh-squeezed vegetable juices, but its hot beverages need work—breakfast tea that we attempted to brew in lukewarm water was undrinkable, and a decaf tasted as if it had been sitting too long.

Service is more casual than crisp, but the food arrives on time and as ordered, and the waitstaff is unobtrusively friendly. Servers will discuss ingredients and respect food allergies; a list of all ingredients is available. Vegan and wheat-free dishes are noted on the menu. There's even a wheat-free vegan chocolate cake (made with spelt) with a thick ganache frosting (though, like the other desserts we tried, it suffered from over-refrigeration).

While some dishes could benefit from an update and a lighter touch, Seva continues to play an important role in the community: a now-classic venue loyally serving the city's growing legion of eco-conscious diners.

JOHN COPLEY

Seva
314 East Liberty **662–1111**

Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Appetizers $3.95–$9.95, salads $3.95–$13.95, sandwiches $9.95–$11.95, entrees $8.95–$14.95, breakfast plates $8.95, desserts $3.95–$5.95

Disability friendly

Quick Bites

Ace pastry chef Terry Morrow has moved the **Queen of Hearts Bakery** from Saline to Ypsilanti; her new shop replaced a long-closed Quizno's at 32 East Cross Street in Depot Town.

"We have a lot more kitchen space now," says Morrow. "All we had at the other location was a ten-burner stove and two ovens. We could only bake a few sheet cakes at a time, and it was crazy around graduation." The new location has deck ovens, which Morrow likes for denser cakes, as well as a convection oven for lighter chiffon-type cakes and cookies. Outside of a general spruce-up, Morrow says, she didn't need to do much to the front of the house. "It was a nice space to begin with, with exposed brick walls," she says. "It doesn't look Quiznoish at all."

It's true. While the bulk of the baking is for custom orders, there's plenty here for walk-in traffic. A dry case holds fresh cookies, cupcakes, muffins, and savory pastries such as broccoli quiche and ham-and-cheese croissants. A refrigerator case displays éclairs, Vienna fruit tarts, and cake slices, and sometimes whole cakes. It's mostly geared toward takeout, but there are a half dozen tables, a coffee urn, and, in Morrow's words, an "itty bitty" espresso machine.

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Gandy Dancer executive pastry chef Catherine Ackerman has re-created eight Ann Arbor landmarks in a **gingerbread and candy village.** Planning for the project began last summer, and the self-described "gingerbread architect" estimates the construction took 300 hours of work and seventy-five pounds of gingerbread.

Ackerman clearly takes delight in the details. For the curved exterior walls and stained-glass windows in her rendition of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Ackerman shaped soft-baked gingerbread into a curve before hardening it in the oven, and made the stained glass from crushed candy and hot sugar. In her Burton Tower, Wrigley's Spearmint and Doublemint gum are patchworked to resemble limestone slabs. The Kempf House's Greek Revival exterior is reproduced in fondant; royal icing icicles drip from the eaves. Tiny LED lights glow behind the windows of the Michigan Theater. Ackerman used candy-coated chocolate rocks to get the right look for the stone exteriors of St. Thomas Church—and, of course, the Michigan Central Railroad depot that today houses the Gandy Dancer. The slate roof here is made with Black Jack chewing gum, and the red turrets with Big Red. A model train winds through the village, just as the trains still roll past the actual Gandy Dancer dining room.

Ackerman, who cites her earliest training in "the school of Mom," also has a degree in home economics from Western Michigan University and certification in baking and pastry from Washtenaw Community College. The one building initially missing from the display was Michigan Stadium. "I just wasn't happy with my original version, so I decided it needed more work," she said in early December, adding that she hoped to complete the little Big House by midmonth. The gingerbread village will remain on display in the restaurant's lobby at least through New Year's Day.

—Bix Engels

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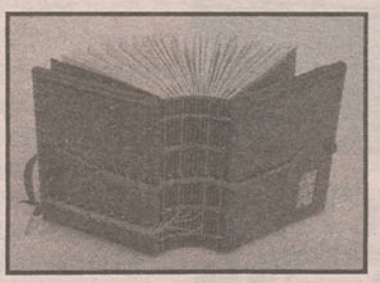

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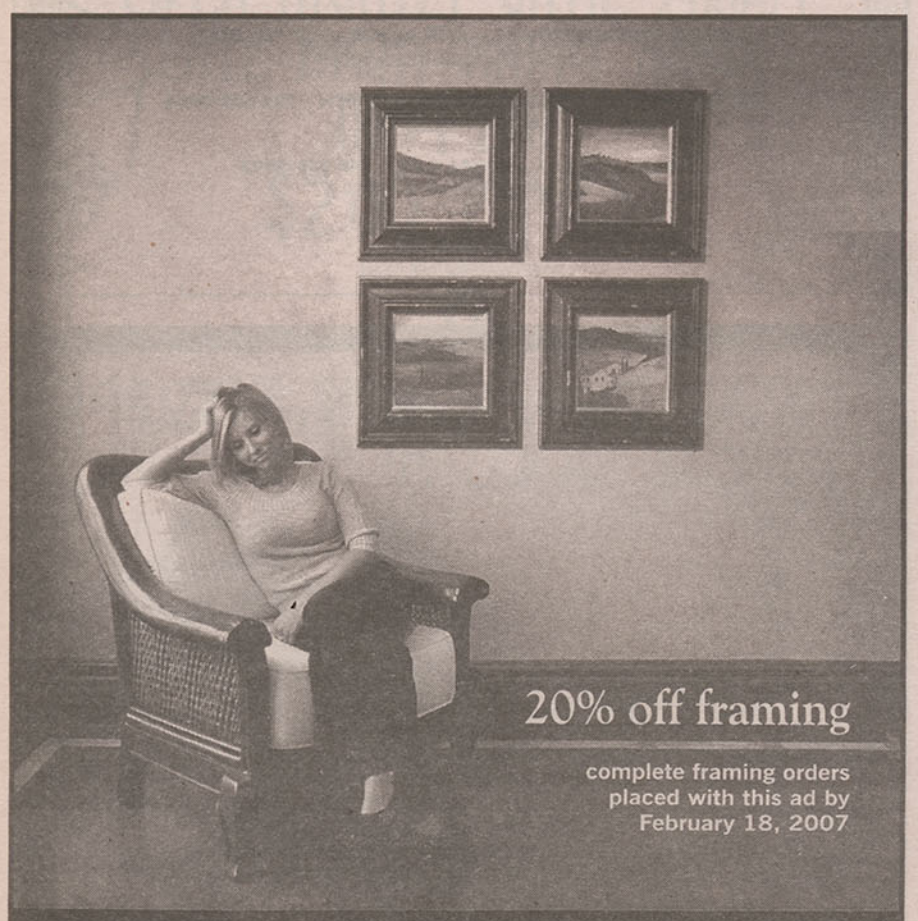

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Marketplace Changes

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

After working the bar at Fraser's since the 1960s, Bill Fraser and Ron Sartori are ready to move on. Ron's planning a career change, but Bill's just looking for a change of venue—he plans to open a bar in Belize.

Bar burnout hits two local institutions

Fraser's Pub and Good Time Charley's are up for sale

The bar business is tough. Ask Rick Buhr, longtime owner of South University's **Good Time Charley's,** or Ron Sartori, one of three partners who own the forty-four-year-old **Fraser's Pub.** Running a bar combines administrative headaches—ordering inventory, doing the books, managing staff, keeping up with increasingly complex insurance issues—with intense customer service: appearing to have a great time with hundreds of sometimes drunk and belligerent patrons. For a middle-aged business veteran, the long hours are brutal and the constant hands-on attention demanded by a high-liability venture exhausting. It's not surprising that without another generation waiting in the wings and willing to take over, older owners often burn out.

"The alcohol business is a young man's sport," says Jim Chaconas, who's handling Good Time Charley's listing. "You can only do it for so many years."

Both Good Time Charley's and Fraser's went on the block this fall. Buhr declined to comment, but real estate agent Jim Chaconas of McKinley Properties, who's handling Good Time Charley's listing and has known Buhr for years, says his friend is ready to move on. "The alcohol business is a young man's sport," he says. "You can only do it for so many years. People just get tired."

It's a sentiment echoed by Sartori, who has worked with two of his boyhood friends, brothers Bill and John Fraser, at the family's pub on Packard since the 1960s. Sartori and Bill Fraser don't have any kids; John's are too young to take over. "We're in our early fifties, and there's still time to do something else," Sartori says. "We're ready."

Good Time Charley's includes two businesses, the street-level bar and a second-floor nightclub of the same name. They're offered for an undisclosed price. Fraser's is listed at $2.5 million, a price that includes both the business and the building. In 1962, when Bill Fraser Sr. and his wife, Joan, opened the bar, the building was a modest one that had once contained the Chuckwagon Restaurant. Renovations and additions over the years, including a front porch and deck, expanded the place to around 3,000 square feet.

Fraser's hefty price tag buys not only a piece of Ann Arbor real estate and its history but also the goodwill of the bar's regulars, who Sartori says are disappointed to see the business leave the family but willing to give new owners a chance. "Our customers are very loyal, and they're the reason we've been successful," he says, adding that the bar's tradition of good-natured ribbing means it's often best to "leave your feelings at the door."

Both listings have gotten a few nibbles but no firm offers so far. "We've heard from lots of people," Sartori says, "including the four hundred friends who've called us to ask what the heck we're doing."

Sartori and John Fraser don't know what they're going to do next, but Bill Fraser has big and dramatic changes planned: he's getting married, moving to Belize, and opening a bar in the Caribbean's presumably more laid-back atmosphere. "Come and visit me if you want," he says cheerfully.

Bob Gregor finds his niche

He's selling fewer sewing machines, but fixing more vintage ones

Check out the webcam for **Singer Sewing Shoppe** and you might see owner Bob Gregor repairing a nineteenth-century sewing machine. Then again, you might see him lying on the floor with his St. Bernard, Bernadette, and rubbing her ample tummy. "She's our hundred-and-seventy-pound greeter, and she loves everybody," he says. "She has people who come in to visit her that don't even sew."

Gregor and his St. Bernards (Berna-

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Bob Gregor and Bernadette. With retail sales slipping, he's downsized his Singer Sewing Shoppe and refocused the business on repairing vintage machines.

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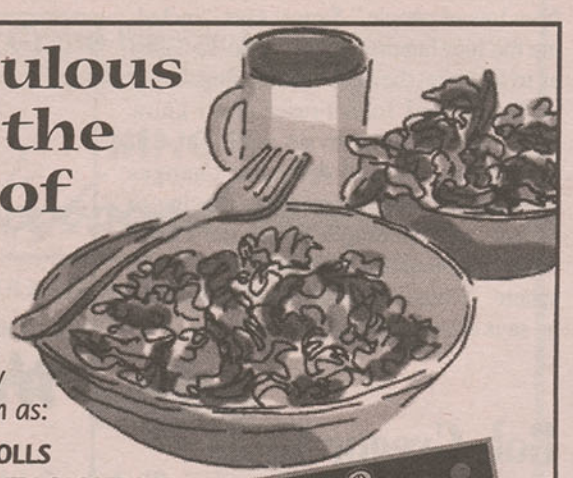

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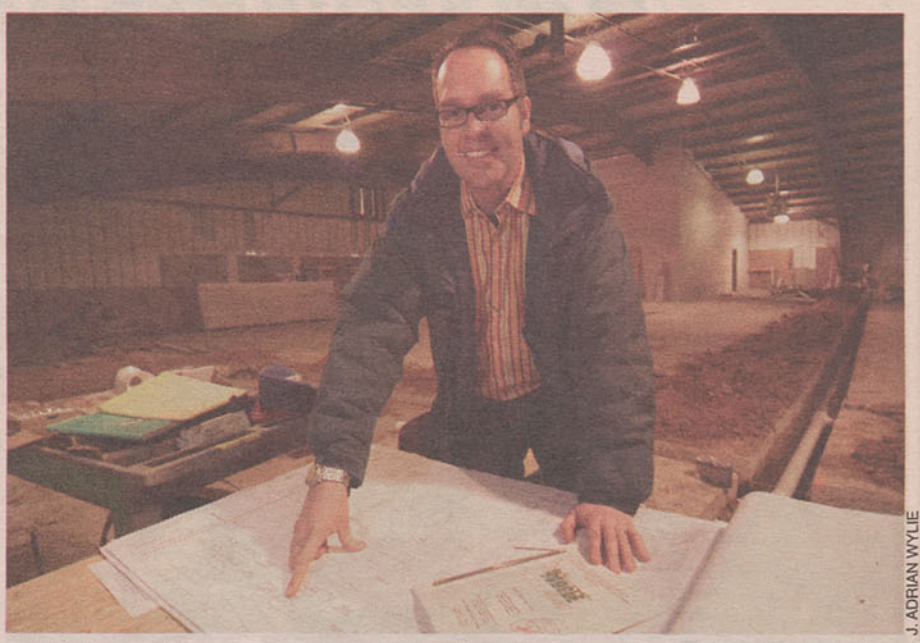

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Eric Yelsma and his partners had been driving their kids to the original Canton Jungle Java. Now they're the company's first franchisees.

dette was preceded by Gretchen, who died almost three years ago) have been keeping each other company at the store since 1995, when he opened the business in Maple Village. In 1999 he moved to a bigger space on Jackson Road, where he sold and repaired sewing machines and offered quilting classes. Now that he's stopped offering the classes—"They're popular at some of the other places, but they weren't for us," he says—he's downsized the shop to another Jackson Road location, this one in Parkland Plaza. He sells some sewing machines and accessories there, although he says the bulk of the business comes from Internet sales (the web address is singersewingshoppe.com). But mostly he repairs machines whose owners can't bear to part with them. He strips them, cleans out what he calls the "goo," and replaces parts as necessary. If the parts are no longer available, he fabricates them himself. He hasn't come across anything he hasn't been able to fix—even a family heirloom that cost its owners almost $1,000 to refurbish. "It can take many hours, but if people are willing to pay for it, I can make almost any machine run like brand new," he says. "I've even had people tell me that they don't remember it running this good when they got it out of the box."

Most repairs don't cost anything close to $1,000, but now that a new low-end machine costs $90 at Kmart, the repair business depends on people who've fallen in love with their old workhorse machines. Gregor says machines made in the last twenty years or so are "pretty disposable," but the older models, including those dating back to the late nineteenth century, are virtually indestructible. The oldest machine Gregor has worked on is the 1871 Singer now on display in the store. Not only did Gregor clean and refurbish it, he even sent it to a local auto body shop to be repainted. "Machines like that are heirlooms," he says. "It's really gratifying to bring them back to life."

When Gregor isn't fixing or selling machines, he's paying attention to Bernadette, who can usually be found lying right in the store's doorway, where she is assured of receiving the most attention. "The kids crawl all over her. She's very docile," Gregor says. "I'm sure there are some people who don't come into the shop because of the dog, but most people just pet her and love on her."

Singer Sewing Shoppe, 4365 Jackson Road, 332–7311. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Closed Sun.

Building Jungle Java

An 80,000-square-foot play cafe is opening on Jackson

Play cafes—that is, cafes and coffeehouses with indoor playgrounds—are springing up all over Washtenaw County, from Fantasy Forest on Ann Arbor's east side to Urban Toddler in Saline and the Chelsea Treehouse in Chelsea. Now the southeast Michigan company that started it all is coming to the west side of town: **Jungle Java,** a franchise from the folks who founded the original in Canton three and a half years ago, is scheduled to open in January.

The Jungle Java concept was inspired by similar places in England, where co-owners Denise and Doug Mehl lived before moving to Canton. With another couple (who later bowed out), the Mehls founded Jungle Java, a play cafe so well received that just a few years later, the couple—now partnered with friends Eric and Laurel Hess—are opening a second company-owned location in Farmington Hills as well as overseeing the launch of their first franchise in Ann Arbor. "When we opened, we were one of the first indoor playgrounds outside of the McDonald's model," Eric Hess says. "We're a destination, and one people really appreciate in a northern climate."

The Ann Arbor Jungle Java is currently under construction in an 80,000-square-

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Zingerman's COFFEE COMPANY — roaster's pick

New Crop Ethiopian Sidamo Yirgacheffe

The new year brings a new roast from Zingerman's Coffee Company that is sure to warm chilly winter days. Ideally suited for making drip coffees, this roast, like a lot of great Ethiopian coffees, has an intense citrus flavor and full body; perfect for a morning wake-up or as a reminder of warmer climates during the Michigan winter. Get it at the Deli all month long.

BAKE! Zingerman's BAKEHOUSE — new!

Teen Baking Classes!

Classes for teens highlight the lineup of January offerings at BAKE!, Ann Arbor's newest hands-on teaching bakery at Zingerman's Bakehouse. Classes for kids ages 13-15 occur Fridays throughout the month, 3:30-5:30 p.m. See the full January schedule at zingermansbakehouse.com

Zingerman's BAKEHOUSE

January bread of the month

Rustic Italian Round

(1.5 lb. loaf)

$3.50/reg. $5.25

Traditional bread of Northern Italy!

Zingerman's roadhouse	2501 Jackson Rd. 663.FOOD
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Zingerman's Catering and Events	422 Detroit St. 663.3400
Zingerman's BAKEHOUSE	3711 Plaza Dr. 761.2095
Zingerman's mail order	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
ZingTRAIN	PO Box 1837 930.1919
Zingerman's creamery	3723 Plaza Dr. 929.0500
Zingerman's COFFEE COMPANY	422 Detroit St. 929.6060

www.Zingermans.com

Zingerman's Delicatessen Launches Winter Pot Pie Campaign

Times readers are enjoying an annual tradition at Zingerman's Delicatessen as the Deli kitchen rolls out its annual pot pie celebration. From January through March, a great selection of pot pies featuring locally raised meat, locally grown vegetables, and handmade, butter crusts will be delighting comfort food fans all over town.

Times Readers! Take them home frozen with this special offer. Buy 10, take 10% off! Buy 20 get 20% off!! Buy 30, get 30% off!!!

Zingerman's Classic Chicken Pot Pie Free range chicken hand-pulled off the bone and blended with big chunks of carrots, celery, potatoes, onions and herbs. A warm and filling treat for cold winter days.

John H. Turkey Pot Pie—Harnois Farm Organic turkey with lots of celery, carrots, onions, potatoes and spiced up with Turkish Urfa pepper and fresh herbs all packed into a handmade butter crust.

Darina's Dingle Pie—A pie saluting the miners on the Dingle Peninsula of Ireland: Local Hannewald Farm lamb spiced with cumin seed, rosemary, onions and a generous helping of potatoes. Wrapped in a butter crust miner style (no tin).

Cheshire Pork Pie—Organic free range pork shoulder braised with onions, potatoes, apple cider and spices stuffed in a handmade pastry crust with Organic Jon-a-Gold apples from Apple Schram Orchards in Charlotte, MI, and served miner style.

Get the inside scoop! Sign up for Deli eNews at zingermansdeli.com

Mia's Mystical Mushroom Pot Pie A handmade crust filled with a Thai style green curry loaded with Shiitake mushrooms from Ann Arbor's own Nature and Nurture.

The Red Brick Beef Pot Pie—By popular demand! Packed with big chunks of all natural beef from Ernst Farm in Washtenaw County along with carrots, potatoes, fresh herbs.

Apalachicola Oysters Migrate North—to Zingerman's Roadhouse

Sources say oysters from Apalachicola have been spotted in the west side of Ann Arbor. *Times* investigators report customers at Zingerman's Roadhouse are indulging in the distinctive flavor of these bivalves from Florida's forgotten gulf coast. Insiders reveal the opportunity to experience oysters from "Apalach" in Michigan is rare.

Says Zingerman's co-founder, Ari Weinzweig, "These oysters are so good and so different from any others I've tasted. I'm really happy to be able to get them here."

Times researchers have discovered that these oysters come from some of the only wild oyster beds remaining in America. They have a meaty texture, a buttery flavor and a crispy brininess.

To find out information about the rich history of oystering in Apalchicola, look for the January/February issue of *Zingerman's News* and check out the oral history project at www.southernfoodways.com.

Oyster Tasting with Ari!

Times readers who want a taste of the Apalach (and oysters from both the East and West Coasts of the U.S., too) are encouraged to stop by Zingerman's Roadhouse where Ari Weinzweig hosts an oyster tasting on February 6.

Spaces go fast; call 734.663.FOOD for reservations.

Wedding (Planning) Season Officially Opens

Incredible Bakehouse Cakes Targeted

Happy couples hunting for imagination-defying wedding cakes are heading to Zingerman's Bakehouse to see the latest creations from the Cake Ladies. Notes happy customer Lyndsey from Canton, "The look and the taste of [Zingerman's] cakes speak for themselves!"

Reporters from the *Times* wedding bureau note that the Bakehouse website—zingermansbakehouse.com—is the first stop of the hunt for many couples. The ahh-inspiring photos have started more than a few down the path to a great cake.

Kristin from Detroit notes, "I can't tell you how many people told me what a change it was to actually have a cake that tasted good. It was wonderful to work with you [at the Bakehouse]!"

Couples looking for the perfect cake to cap a perfect wedding should call 734.761.7255 to set up a private meeting with the Bakehouse Cake designers on Plaza Drive. 2007 is booking quickly, so don't delay!

Little Dragon Overtakes Creamery

Zingerman's creamery

This handmade goat round is lightly pressed while the curd is setting giving it a milder citrus taste than a typical fresh goat cheese. The rounds are rolled in chopped, fresh terragon and insiders report that the mild taste is perfectly accented by the fresh herbs. *Times* readers can stop by the Creamery's Cheese Shop or Zingerman's Delicatessen and ask for a free taste!

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building materials
doors
sinks
toilets
lumber
kitchen cabinets
door handles
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hardcover books
softcover books
small appliances
refrigerators
washers
dryers

foot building on Jackson Road, about a quarter mile west of the Quality 16 theater complex. As in Canton, the bulk of the space will be taken up by an elaborate play structure, a wonder of molded plastic that is over twenty feet tall and ninety feet wide. It includes multiple slides, steps, lofty perches, tunnels, and walkways—enough to keep kids busy for hours and to guarantee a fairly docile bedtime come evening. Although there's a cafe with an ample menu and comfortable seating, Jungle Java's owners have rejected distractions like big-screen TVs. "We want people to be comfortable, but we also want them to be aware of where their kids are," says Hess. "This is very much like going to an outdoor playground."

Ann Arbor's menu will be similar to Canton's, with coffee drinks and other beverages, hot and cold sandwiches, soups, salads, hot dogs, macaroni and cheese, and baked goods, as well as a refrigerator case of kid-friendly munchies including yogurt, fruit, cereal, and cheese sticks. Customers order at the counter, take a number, and wait for their food to be brought to their tables.

Jungle Java's first franchisees are Saline residents Eric and Shelly Yelsma and their Pittsfield friends Lisa and Gavin Clarkson. They'd all been driving to the Jungle Java in Canton for the past two years and wishing it were a little closer. They were considering opening a similar independent venture when they found out the company was exploring franchising. They're all excited and eager to get the place open—almost as eager as their kids, who range in age from two to eight. "This is our children's college fund," Eric Yelsma jokes.

The Ann Arbor Jungle Java franchisees are doing a few things differently from the original owners in Canton. They're incorporating the waiting area (which on bad-weather days can become quite crowded) into the cafe, so customers can get something to drink while waiting; and there will be private, enclosed party rooms (in Canton the party area is simply an open space off the main dining area). The Yelsmas are vegetarians, so they will also expand the meatless offerings on the cafe's menu.

Admission will be $6.50 per child (adults are free), or $60–$93 for a three-month pass, depending upon family size.

Jungle Java, 3900 Jackson Road, 786–1340. Expected to open in late January. Mon.–Fri. 8:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

ket, Ann Taylor Loft, Bath & Body Works, Chico's, J. Jill, Bravo Cucina Italiana, and Asian eatery **Pei Wei.** According to developer Bill Conlin, the center, which replaces a former car dealership and several smaller stores, is about 60 percent leased.

Demolition for the Arlington Shops has just begun—but according to developer Bill Conlin, it's already 60 percent leased.

Closings

Tim and Harriet Seaver closed the Stone School Road location of **Tios** in December. The Tex-Mex eatery did great numbers when it opened in 2003, Tim says, but had been struggling for the past two years. "When we went out there, everything up and down Ellsworth and Varsity Drive was full," he notes. "Now forty percent of those businesses are gone, and several others I know of are at half shift. The economy just did us in." Their original location on Huron in Ann Arbor and the branch on Washtenaw in Ypsilanti remain open, but without the luxury of the large commissary kitchen on Stone School, Tim is having to go back to the way he used to cook when he opened the business twenty-one years ago. "I'm making lots of small batches," he says.

Zenaida closed on South Main not long after it acquired a liquor license, dropped the "Chocolate Lounge" part of its name, and reimaged itself as a late-night eatery and bar. In a November *Ann Arbor News* column, owner Allison Bannister wrote that "the Michigan economy is struggling, and it falls on our town to offer something so special that it is a must-see experience." For Zenaida, that was made more difficult by its location in the Ashley Mews building—a crucial few feet south of William, the traditional boundary of Main Street's restaurant row. A second restaurant, **Marnee Thai,** is scheduled to open soon in an adjoining space in the same building; with an already successful sibling in Oak Valley Centre, Lotus Thai, it should have more time to build destination traffic.

Briefly Noted

Demolition began in December on the site of **Arlington Shops,** a new six-building shopping center across from Whole Foods on Washtenaw. The 138,000-square-foot development, which received final city approval in November, will include **White House / Black Mar-**

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Marketplace Changes column reported eleven new retailers and restaurants. Only five of them survived the decade: Briarwood jewelry store **The Goldsmith; Frames Unlimited,** in the Plymouth Road Mall; **Austin Diamond,** which has since moved

from Liberty Street to larger quarters on South Main and become Austin & Warburton; **Superior Food Mart** in Dixboro, now called Superior Market; and **Sun and Snow Sports,** which has downsized from Jackson Road to Westgate shopping center.

Joe's Chick-N-Ribs didn't make it through its first year, despite being endorsed by B. B. King. **Blimpie Subs & Salads** went through a couple of different owners before closing, as did the **Coffee Beanery** franchise with which it shared space on Liberty. The other casualties are Briarwood's **Speedo Authentic Fitness,** Dixboro's **Trillium Treasures,** and **Tree Town Skateshop,** which was one of several funky little shops clustered on a second floor on South State.

January 1997 survival rate: 45 percent

❧❧❧

Five years ago this month, we told you about nine new businesses. Three of them are gone: studio and gallery **Art Oasis,** on North Main; **JT's Dawg House,** a hot dog stand run by the Jack's Hardware folks that has since become a sushi shop; and the **Bistro on Main,** the restaurant that succeeded Cleveland's Gill & Grill and preceded Don Carlos Mexican Restaurante. Most recently Pepperz, the space—and the business—are currently up for sale.

The arrows are still flying at **Wilderness Archery** shop and indoor shooting range, in Maple Village. Bargains are still to be had at the **Greenback Dollar Store** at Stadium and Liberty. Indie music shop **Underground Sounds** has since moved aboveground to a street-level space in East Liberty Plaza. The other survivors are **Flying Sheep Yarns** on South Industrial; **Babies R Us** on Carpenter Road; and **Lucky Market** in the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth Road.

January 2002 survival rate: 67 percent

❧❧❧

One year ago this month, this column noted eleven openings. Three of those businesses didn't make it to their first anniversaries: **Viva Pizza & Subs** on Ellsworth near Platt; the **Garden Cafe & Market** inside Huron Towers; and **Moderno,** a North Main clothier whose space is now occupied by Edible Arrangements.

On South University, used-clothing boutique **Ana Banana,** pizzeria **NYPD,** and irreverent eatery **No Thai!** are still in business. So are the **Backyard Grill, Yogi Grocery,** and **Shakti Bazaar**—all on Carpenter; **Moosejaw Mountaineering** on Main Street; and **ArtSpoken,** a custom frame shop and art supply store on Miller at Ashley.

January 2006 survival rate: 73 percent

—Laura McReynolds

❧❧❧

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send e-mail to lauram@aaobserver.com or leave voice mail at 769–3175, extension 320.

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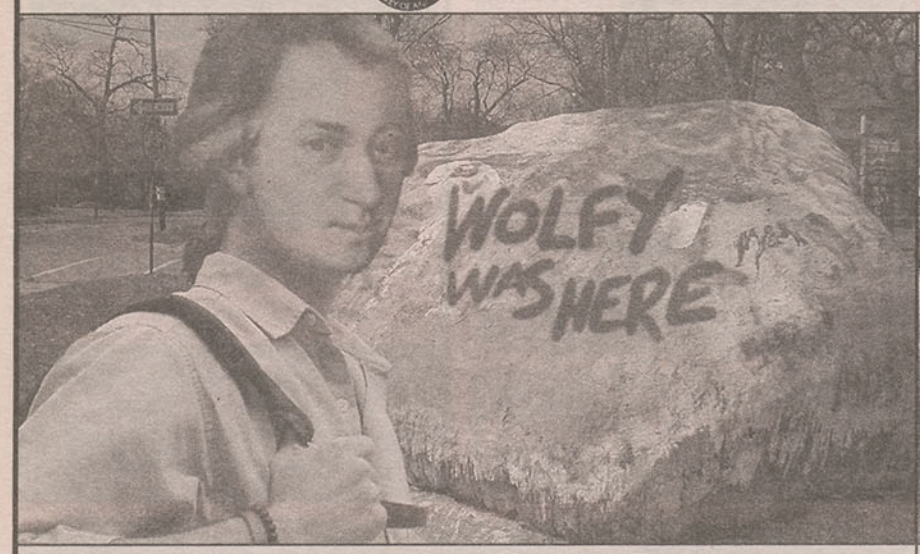
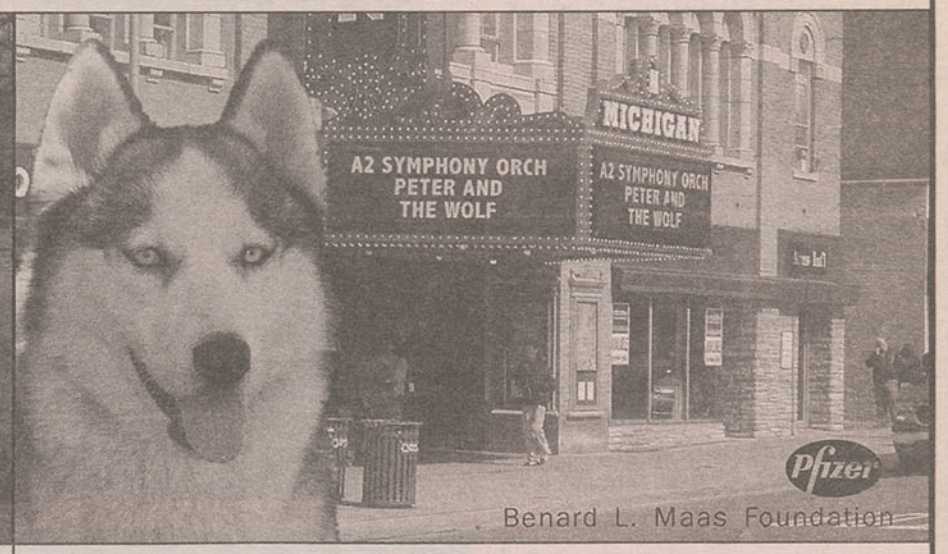
The Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra





Mozart's Birthday Bash

Saturday, January 20· 8 pm, Michigan Theater

MOZART "Coronation" Mass *with soprano Jennifer Larson, bass baritone Chris Grapentine, mezzo soprano Wendy Bloom, tenor Glenn Perry, Vocal Arts Ensemble*
MOZART Sinfonia Concertante
MOZART Serenade No. 4

KAYDON

$10-$42 senior/student/child discounts available.
Tickets free to Huron and Pioneer music & humanities students

A²SO Dickinson Wright Family Series

Peter and the Wolf

Sunday, January 21 · 4 pm, Michigan Theater

PETER AND THE WOLF
THE LION KING MEDLEY
RACCOON TUNE
THE PINK PANTHER
...and other pieces about favorite animals!

A concert of compositions about critters! Creatures great and small introduce kids to the orchestra in a musical menagerie that grownups will also enjoy. Don't miss the world premiere of *Raccoon Tune* based on Ann Arbor author Nancy Shaw's book! Book signing after the concert with the author and composer.

$5 children (through high school)/$12 adults

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RESERVED SEATING $25. $15, $9 WITH STUDENT ID ‡ LEAGUE TICKET OFFICE 734-764-2538

University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance

January Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375 or 769-4950.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:
The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

★ *Denotes no admission charge.*

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 MONDAY (New Year's Day)

"108 Sun Salutations": Sun Moon Yoga Studio. Michael Gibson-Faith and Jo Horn lead visitors in 108 rounds of this set of 12 gentle, easy yoga movements. *9:30 a.m., Sun Moon Studio, 404 W. Huron. Donation. 929–0274.*

★**"Monday Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 34–45 miles, to either the Munith or Stockbridge area. *10 a.m. (Jan. 1) & 9 a.m. (Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29), meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 851–8323 & (517) 285–6830.*

★**"First Miles of 2007": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Short ride to a brunch spot for eating and socializing. Distance depends on the weather. Canceled if an official road advisory is in effect. *10 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 996–9461.*

★**"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom.** All invited to join an annual year-end candle-lighting ceremony that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. The ceremony is also conducted at 7 p.m. on December 31. *11:30 a.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free. 761–6520.*

Four Nations Tournament: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. *December 29 & 30 and January 1 & 2.* The **Team USA Under-17** of this Ann Arbor-based program hosts a tournament that also features junior teams from **Finland, Sweden,** and **Germany.** Today: **Finland vs. Germany** (3:30 p.m.) and **Sweden vs. Team USA** (7 p.m.). The 3-day round-robin is followed on January 2 with bronze (3:30 p.m.) and gold (7 p.m.) medal games. *3:30 & 7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $12 (students & children, $6). 327–9251.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Monday.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *Note:* The January 1 quiz won't begin until the U-M football game is over. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Dreamgirls" (Bill Condon, 2006). *December 25–January 11.* High-energy musical about a Motown trio, loosely based on the Supremes, climbing to stardom and discovering the less glamorous side of the Detroit African American music industry from the early 60s through the 70s. Beyonce Knowles, Jamie Foxx, Eddie Murphy. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"The History Boys"** (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). *December 22–January 4.* Witty, sharp portrait of eight boys at a Yorkshire grammar school preparing for their entrance exams. *$8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.*

Josh Brown, Jan. 5

***Sweet Charity*, Jan. 11–14**

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83 **Marie Howe**
"A nearly unendurable joy" — *Keith Taylor*

108 **Events at a Glance**

***Owl's Winter*, Jan. 18–20**

Sekou Sundiata, Jan. 20

2 TUESDAY

Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tuesday & Wednesday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *9:30–11:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 12:45–3:30 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. 25¢ contribution for prizes. 769–5911.*

Kids Session: The Scrap Box. *January 2–5.* Kids invited to drop in and make a decorative door hanger with recycled feathers, buttons, decorative paper, gewgaws, baubles, doodads, sparkly and nonsparkly things, and more. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Scrap Box, 581 State Circle. $2 per project. 994–0012.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Tuesday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tuesday.* All seniors invited to participate in **"Let's Talk About,"** a social discussion group that focuses on issues of grandparenting. Followed by **mah-jongg** (noon–2 p.m.) and **creative crafts** (1–3 p.m.). *10:30 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Newcomers Coterie Club of Ann Arbor.** Janice Stevenson presents a PowerPoint talk on how the ornamental art glass made by Jordan Valley of Northern Michigan artists is blown. All women who have recently moved or returned to the Ann Arbor–Ypsilanti area are invited. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by lunch (preregistration required). *12:30 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. Free. Low-cost child care arrangements available in advance only. 426–3132.*

★**"3-D Tissue Birds: Make It and Take It Craft": Ann Arbor District Library.** *January 2 & 3.* All kids age 3 & up invited to make a mosaic bird. Materials provided. *2–4 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch (Jan. 2), Plymouth Mall, & 10 a.m.–noon, AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Jan. 3), 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Nintendo DS Fest: Ann Arbor District Library.** *January 2 & 3.* Players of all ages invited to bring their Nintendo DS to play video games and share tips and tricks. *3–5 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd; & 2–3 p.m., Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327–4200.*

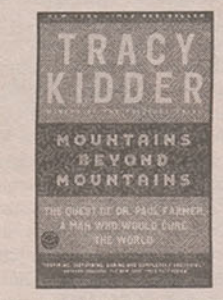
★**Ann Arbor Front Runners.** *Every Tuesday & Thursday.* Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3–5 miles to run with Front Runners members. *6:30 p.m., meet at Furstenberg Park, off Fuller Rd. across from Huron High School. Free. 741–1763.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tuesday.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

★**"Animanga Club for Teens": Ann Arbor District Library.** All anime and manga fans in grades 6–12 are invited to share their enthusiasm for these Japanese art forms, do some crafts, discuss the adventures of the Straw Hat Pirates in Eiichiro Oda's *One Piece* manga, and make up their own pirate names. Free Pocky, a Japanese novelty snack popular with anime fans. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"13th Annual Bad Poetry Night": Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Instead of the usual featured reader, the centerpiece of this month's Slam is a competition to see who can come up with the worst poem—original

January 2007 EVENTS
Ann Arbor District Library



Wednesday 3
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Wired & Inspired for Teens & Adults: Old computer parts = techno-cool jewelry! • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Monday 8
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Shifting Boundaries: Area artists discuss their exhibit on display at The Ann Arbor Art Center • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Monday 8
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads: Book Discussion Leader Training for *Mountains Beyond Mountains*
Ypsilanti District Library • ***Registration: 734.879.1303**
Also: Fri., Jan. **12** • Ann Arbor Senior Center • ***734.327.4560**
Thurs., Jan. **18** • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room • ***734.327.4560**

Wednesday 10
7:00 - 8:30 pm
The Life of a Figure Skater: Local ice dance silver medalists discuss national and international competition
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Thursday 11
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads • Film: *A Closer Walk* with post-film discussion led by **Jennifer White** of Michigan Television
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Sunday 14
2:00 - 3:00 pm
Sunday Edition Author Series: Carol Gibson and **Lola Jones** discuss their pictorial history of African Americans in Washtenaw County • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Tuesday 16
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads • Y. Blak Moore, street-smart author, poet and former gang member, discusses his work and the Street Lit genre • Neutral Zone • **310 E. Washington St.**

Wednesday 17
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Great Lakes Lighthouse historian **Wayne S. Sapulski** discusses lighthouse preservation • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

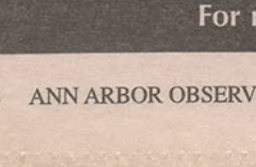
Sunday 21
2:00 - 3:00 pm
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads • The Mosaic Singers of Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Tuesday 23
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Brain Stimulation Treatments in a High-Tech Age with **Daniel Maixner, MD**, UM Department of Psychiatry
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Wednesday 24
4:00 - 5:00 pm
Family Science Fun Workshops • Ages 6 - 11 with adult
Curious About Climate: Why Weather Works
Pittsfield Branch • ***Registration: 327.4200**
Also: Sat., Jan. **27**, 10-11 am • Malletts Creek Branch • ***327.4200**
Sat., Jan. **27**, 2-3 pm • Northeast Branch • ***327.4200**

Wednesday 24
7:00 - 8:30 pm
UM PhD student **Florian Block** discusses his experiences biking from Germany to Nepal • Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Thursday 25
7:30 - 8:30 pm
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads • Tracy Kidder, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of ***Mountains Beyond Mountains***, discusses his book
Washtenaw Community College • **4800 E. Huron River Dr.**



Tuesday 30
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Bright Nights™ Community Forum • Depression: Seasons and Reasons—A Closer Look at Seasonal Affective Disorder with **John Greden, MD**, Exec. Director, UM Depression Center
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

Wednesday 31
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Concert: Folksongs & Folktales with **Lee Knight**
Downtown Multi-Purpose Room

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

or stolen. "We are willing to pay the worst poem of the evening more than we pay the winner of our regular slam. How's that for perversity?" organizers wonder. "Write something new and bad, haul out something bad from the past, or just do a really bad job of performing any old thing, and you could go home with enough money to make you feel good enough to write some more bad poems." Cash prizes. Preceded and followed by open-mike readings. *7–10 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. $5. For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tuesday.* Historical and traditional English dancing. Today: Caller Colin Hume with music by Childgrove. Also this month: caller Greg Meisner with music by David West, Donna Baird, and Susie Lorand (January 9), callers Ray Bantle and Bronwen Gates with music by Debbie Jackson and friends (January 16), callers Shirley Harden and Glen Morningstar with music by Childgrove (January 23), and callers Arlene Kindel and Marty Wilson with music by Bedrock and Susie Lorand (January 30). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $6 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

★Sweet Adelines County Connection. *Every Tuesday.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. Also, nonmembers are invited to perform with County Connection's Holiday Chorus at occasions around town during the holiday season. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.*

★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. *Every Tuesday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Greg Humbel at 769–1463.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus. *Every Tuesday.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7:30–9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free ($80 per semester membership dues). 213–3770.*

Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. *Every Tuesday.* Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 27th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M indoor track, S. State at Hoover. U-M pass ($5 per day) required. 663–9740.*

★Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. *Every Tuesday & Saturday.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m. (Tues.) & 1–3 p.m. (Sat.), location TBA. Free. 222–9803, 761–1115.*

★Ann Arbor Smocking Group. Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heirloom sewing. All invited. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–7867.*

★German Speakers' Round Table. *Every Tuesday.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665–2931.*

★"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar. *Every Tuesday.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

FILMS

MTF. "Dreamgirls" (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"The History Boys"** (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA.

3 WEDNESDAY

"Gallup Gatherings": Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Wednesday.* All seniors age 55 & older invited for socializing, nature walks, and other activities. Coffee & baked goods provided. *10–11:30 a.m., Gallup Park canoe livery (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $5. 662–9319.*

★"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders. *Every Wednesday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: James Marshall's version of

Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Paul Zelinsky's version of ***Rumpelstiltskin***. Also this month: Carmela LaVigna Coyle's ***Thank You, Aunt Tallulah*** and Dr. Seuss's ***Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are*** (January 10), Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld's Winnie-the-Pooh adaptations ***Happy New Year, Pooh!*** and ***Pooh Welcomes Winter*** (January 17), Wayne Dyer's ***Incredible You*** and Kathi Appelt's ***Incredible Me*** (January 24), and Laura Numeroff's ***If You Give a Pig a Party*** and ***If You Give a Pig a Pancake*** (January 31). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**Toastmasters General.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *Noon–1 p.m., F206 Veterans Hospital, 2215 Fuller Rd. Free to visitors. 769–7100, ext. 5678.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Wednesday.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Scrabble: The Firefly Club.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to join Firefly owner Susan Chastain and other local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. *5–8 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free. 665–9090.*

Wine Tasting: Paesano's Restaurant. *Every Wednesday.* A chance to sample 5 different Italian wines each week, in an informal and friendly setting, with a selection of appetizers. *6–7 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. Space limited; reservations recommended. $20. 971–0484.*

★**Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday (except January 1) & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–7:45 p.m., 101 Science Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes. Free to visitors. Dues: $30 semiannually. 994–1479.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wednesday.* Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Wednesday & Thursday.* Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. *7 p.m. (Wed.) & 11 a.m. (Thurs.), Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Wired and Inspired!": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staff member Anne Drozd shows kids in grade 6 & up and adults how to transform bits and pieces of old computers into gorgeous jewelry. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★**Auditions: Ann Arbor Consort.** *January 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31.* All invited to try out for a spot in this polished local ensemble that performs Renaissance-era music in period costume. *7:30 p.m., Calvary United Methodist Church, 1415 Miller at Newport. Free. 483–1732.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** *Every Wednesday.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 699–8101.*

★**Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***The Thirteenth Tale,*** Diane Setterfield's debut novel, a story about the relationship between a famous writer at the end of her life and the unworldly bookish girl she hires to write her biography. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–0846.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Illinois. *8 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *Theosophy. 8–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485–3764.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. *Wednesday-Sunday through January 20.* Guy Sanville directs Jeff Daniels's new comedy, a prequel to his hugely successful Yooper deer-hunting comedy *Escanaba in da Moonlight*. Set in a somewhat seedy deer camp on the eve of WW II, the story concerns Soady family patriarch Albert and the love of his young life, the legendary Big Betty Baloo. Cast: Paul Hopper, Wayne David Parker, Inga Wilson, Will David Young, and Jake Christensen. *Note:* Many January shows are sold out; call ahead for availability. *8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $12.50 (Tues.), $25 (Wed. & Thurs.), $30 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), $35 (Fri. & Sat. eves.). Tickets available in advance and at the door. 433–7673.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wednesday.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Dreamgirls" (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"The History Boys"** (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA.

4 THURSDAY

★**"Better World Breakfast": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** A speaker TBA discusses a topic of global concern, followed by a session of writing letters to elected officials regarding that issue. Breakfast available. *7:30–9:30 a.m., Broken Egg, 221 N. Main St. Free (pay for your own breakfast). 663–1870.*

★**"Introduction to Computers": Ann Arbor District Library.** *January 4 & 5.* Two-part hands-on introduction to computers, with an emphasis on basic skills. *Note:* This program is also offered at the Pittsfield (January 4 & 5, 1 p.m.), West (January 23 & 24, 10 a.m.), and Northeast (January 23 & 24, 1 p.m.) branches. *10 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

"Economic Realities: Prospects for the U.S. Economy": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. *January 4, 11, 17, & 25 and February 1 & 8.* A series of 6 weekly lectures by different U-M and guest scholars. Open to anyone age 55 & older. Today: U-M economics professor Saul Hymans discusses **"The Impact on U.S. Families of the Soaring National Debt and Trade Deficit."** Also in the series: U-M public policy professor Sheldon Danziger on **"American Persistent Poverty: How It Can Be Reduced"** (January 11), U-M accounting professor Eugene Imhoff on **"Corporate Governance after the Sarbanes-Oxley Act: What Games Do Corporations Play?"** (January 17), U-M economics professor John Laitner on **"Global Aging and U.S. Social Security"** (January 25), U-M Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations research scientist George Fulton on **"Michigan's Economy, What Next: How Should We Adapt and Proceed?"** (February 1), and U-M health management and policy professor Richard Lichtenstein on **"Rising Health Care Costs: Are We Headed for a Train Wreck?"** (February 8). *10–11:30 a.m., Best Western Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $45 (members, $30) for the 6-lecture series. Memberships are $15 a year. 998–9351.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun,"** a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m., a **Current Events** discussion group. At 1 p.m., a cultural or educational program. This week: screening of part 1 of ***Sunshine,*** Istvan Szabo's 1999 film about 3 generations of a 20th-century Hungarian Jewish family. Also this month: screening of part 2 of ***Sunshine*** (January 11), a presentation of **"A Journey Through Jewish China"** by local photographer Nancy Margolis (January 18), and Visiting Physicians representative Victoria McDiarmid discusses **"Nutrition and Longevity"** (January 25). The day concludes at 2:15 p.m. with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group**, a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Factory Tours: Motawi Tileworks.** *Every Thursday.* A Motawi artist leads a guided tour of every stage of tile-making. Attendees can watch artists at work. *11 a.m., Motawi, 170 Enterprise Dr. (north of Jackson Rd. between Staebler & Baker). Free. Call for reservations. 213–0017.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thursday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *Noon–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $4 (nonresidents, $5). 769–5911.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *January 4, 11, 18, & 25.* Performances by area and guest artists. Today: a snowflake-making workshop with **Thomas Clark.** Also this month: uplifting originals and world-music-flavored improvisations by **ToneFeather** (January 11), West African kora music by **Djely Mady Kouy-**

1301 South University
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
734.763.UMMA
www.umma.umich.edu

HOURS
Tu, Sa, Su: 11 am to 6 pm
We, Th, Fr: 11 am to 10 pm

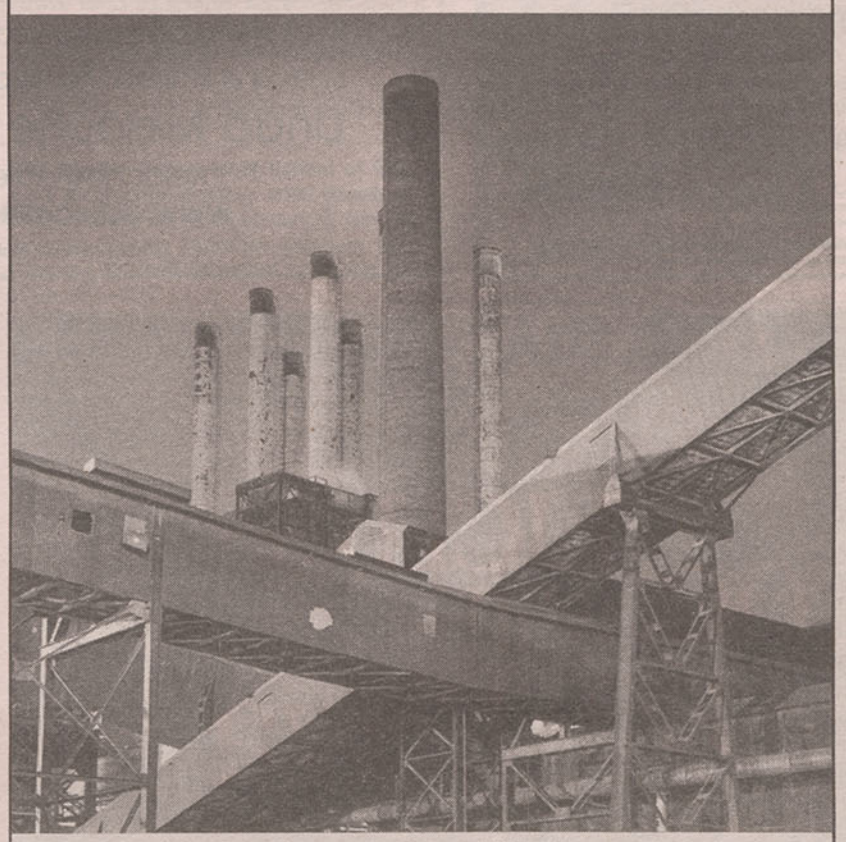
OFF/SITE

EXPLORING THE POWER OF PLACE

the rouge: photographs by michael kenna

The visual poetics of industry

December 2, 2006 – January 14, 2007



Michael Kenna, *The Rouge Study #52, Dearborn, MI,* 1995, sepia-toned gelatin silver print, UMMA, 2002/2.290

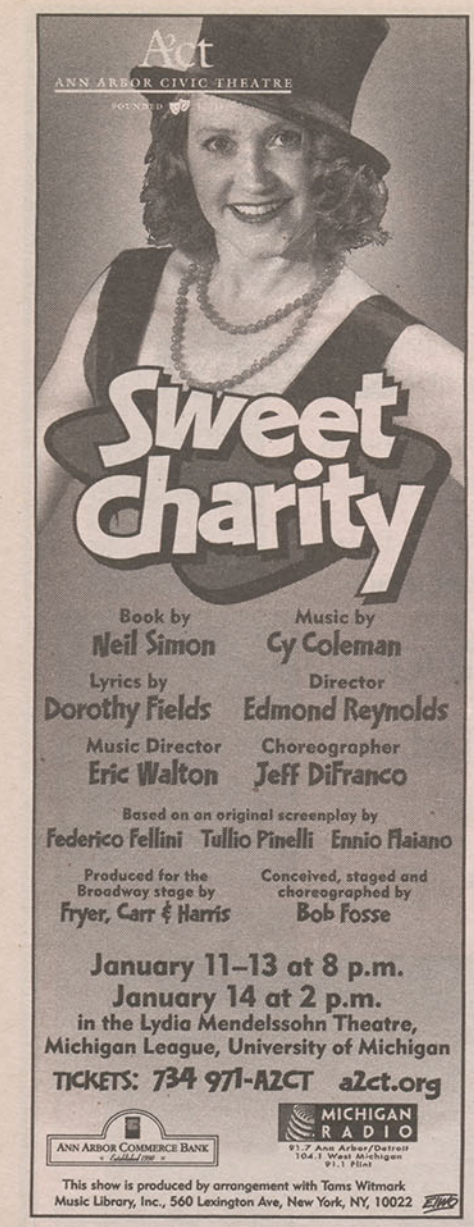
Ford

This project is made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund, as part of its support of UMMA's 2006–07 season.

Additional support for this exhibition has been provided by Michigan Radio.

UMMA

The University of Michigan **Museum of Art**


A2ct
ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE
Sweet Charity
Book by Neil Simon
Music by Cy Coleman
Lyrics by Dorothy Fields
Director Edmond Reynolds
Music Director Eric Walton
Choreographer Jeff DiFranco
Based on an original screenplay by Federico Fellini Tullio Pinelli Ennio Flaiano
Produced for the Broadway stage by Fryer, Carr & Harris
Conceived, staged and choreographed by Bob Fosse
January 11–13 at 8 p.m.
January 14 at 2 p.m.
in the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, Michigan League, University of Michigan
TICKETS: 734 971-A2CT a2ct.org
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MICHIGAN RADIO
91.7 Ann Arbor/Detroit
104.1 West Michigan
91.1 Flint
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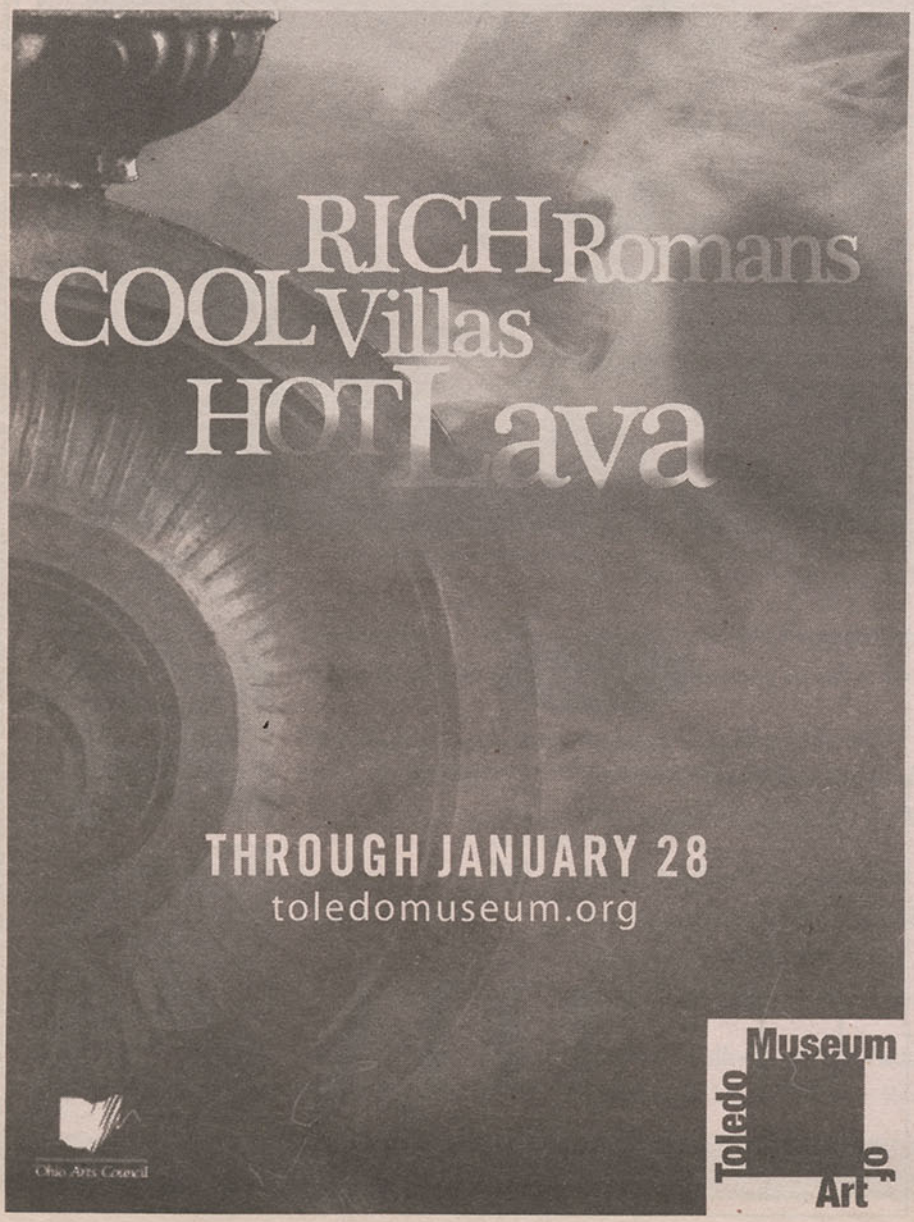
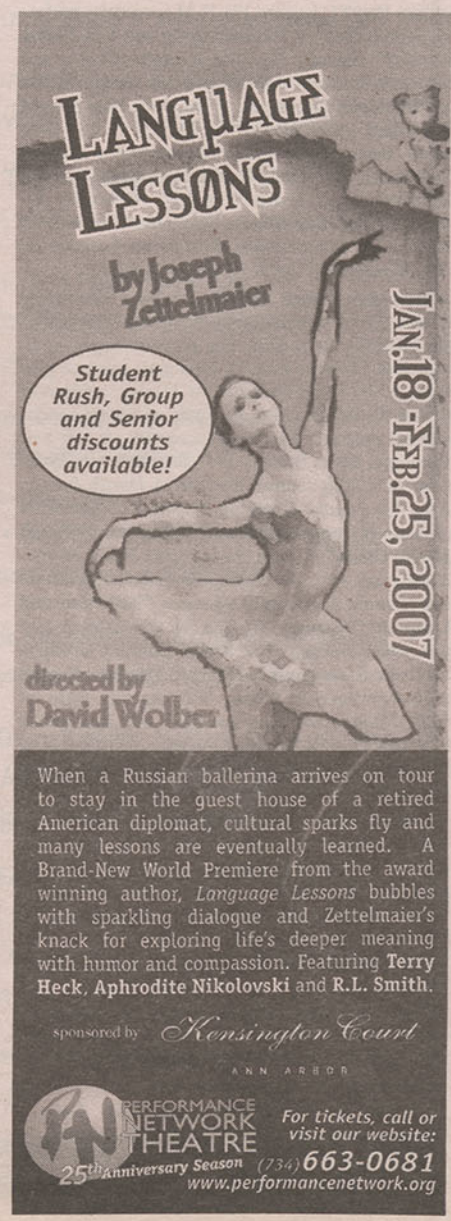
Linda Meloche at 734.475.4334
meloche@dalecarnegie.com
www.dalecarnegie-mich.com
presented by Ralph Nichols Group




Language Lessons
by Joseph Zettelmaier
Jan 18 - Feb 25, 2007
Student Rush, Group and Senior discounts available!
directed by David Wolber
When a Russian ballerina arrives on tour to stay in the guest house of a retired American diplomat, cultural sparks fly and many lessons are eventually learned. A Brand-New World Premiere from the award winning author, Language Lessons bubbles with sparkling dialogue and Zettelmaier's knack for exploring life's deeper meaning with humor and compassion. Featuring Terry Heck, Aphrodite Nikolovski and R.L. Smith.
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4 THURSDAY *continued*

ate (January 18), and jazz by the **Paul VornHagen Trio** (January 25). *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital courtyard, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**"Create Your Own T-Shirt Pillow": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids age 8 & up invited to bring a T-shirt to make into a pillow and decorate. Decorations provided. *2–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** *Every Thursday.* A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. *2–7 p.m.; CTN studio, LL114 Edison Center, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tues.–Fri. of the week preceding your appearance. 769–7422.*

★**"Global Place: Practice, Politics, and the Polis": U-M College of Architecture.** *January 4–6.* Three days of talks by world-renowned design theorists, urban planners, and social theorists on megacities, sustainability, and the challenge of creating a sense of place in a world increasingly dominated by the forces of placelessness. *5–7 p.m. (Jan. 4), Rackham Auditorium, and 9 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (Jan. 5) & 9 a.m.–6 p.m. (Jan. 6), BSRB "Pringle" auditorium, entrance at Zina Pitcher & Ann. Free. 764–1649.*

★**ASL Storytelling: Ann Arbor Deaf Club.** *January 4 & 18.* All invited to tell or observe stories told in American Sign Language. *6–7:30 p.m., Washtenaw County Library Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw. Free. 971–6059.*

★**"Women Running Fit": Two Dogs Running.** *Every Thursday.* All women invited to run a different course, 2–6 miles, each week. Directed by a certified running coach. Maps provided. Runners who accumulate 50 miles receive a T-shirt from Running Fit. Men also invited to run. *6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 369–2492, 569–5016.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Illinois. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters.** *Every Thursday.* All invited to develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a warm, friendly environment. *Note*: Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays (except January 1) and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., St. Luke Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 4205 Washtenaw (east of US-23). Free to visitors. Dues: $35 semiannually (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $20). 678–2256.*

ACBL Bridge: Women's City Club. *Every Thursday.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★**"Trekking in the Himalayas: Virtual Tour": Of Global Interest.** Local adventure tour owner Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas for her adventure tour business Of Global Interest, screens a travel video about the Everest base camp. *7–8:30 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free. 369–3107.*

★**"The Rouge: Photographs by Michael Kenna": U-M Museum of Art.** *January 4, 7, 11, & 14.* Docent-guided tours of this exhibit of 90 moody, atmospheric photographs of the Rouge auto factory. Note temporary new UMMA location. *7 p.m. (Jan. 4 & 11) & 2 p.m. (Jan. 7 & 14), UMMA Off/Site, 1301 South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Thursday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10 p.m., Go Like the Wind Montessori School, 3549 Dixboro Ln. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. 474–1155.*

★**Romance Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of Diane Setterfield's ***The Thirteenth Tale*** (see 3 Wednesday listing). Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m.,*

galleries

Artrain's Native American art

Comments on contemporary life

For many communities in the United States, a visit from Artrain is a celebrated event. When the museum in five railcars rolls into small towns, people of all ages travel for miles to see the paintings and sculptures on the train.

Now it's Ann Arbor's turn. The return of Artrain to its NEW Center headquarters on North Main Saturday through Wednesday, January 20–24, offers a rare chance to see *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture—A Contemporary Native American Art Exhibition*.

Showcasing seventy works by fifty-three living Native American artists, *Native Views* offers unexpected and challenging perspectives on Native people and cultures. Exploring the themes of popular culture, land, science, and technology, the pieces juxtapose traditional Native American representations and artistic expressions with modern materials, images, and experiences. Threads of humor and irony weave through works that challenge stereotypical imagery, rethink spiritual icons, and respond to the destruction of nature, community, and tradition.

Guest curator Joanna O. Bigfeather, formerly of the Institute of American Indian Art Museum in Santa Fe, has selected many works that are colorful, playful, and full of the commercial and pop culture imagery familiar to the thousands of young people who visit Artrain. There's a skateboard by Douglas Miles painted with an Apache warrior, a fabric vest from Alex Jacobs festooned with candy wrappers and Land O'Lakes butter packages, stunning beadwork by Marcus Amerman affixed to a baby carrier bought at IKEA (pictured), and a basket woven with sixteen-millimeter film by Gail E. Tremblay. Coyotes are dressed in platform shoes and leather, Spiderman speaks Navajo, and an astronaut wears a loincloth. In Gerald L. Clarke's *Ten Piece Offering*, a shaman gives thanks with a KFC bucket.

A work like Judith A. Lowry's *Road Kill Warrior: Last of His Tribe* insists that visitors look beyond the humor to the complex emotions these works convey. Lowry has painted a Nike-clad powwow dancer taking feathers from a roadkill bird while his family wait in their camper bus and a timber truck drives by. The messages are obvious, the implications multilayered.

Native Views has been traveling the country since 2004 and recently returned from Artrain's first tour of Alaska. The exhibition has encouraged new alliances among Native and non-Native groups that have hosted the train. These visits have also brought recognition to the work of local artists and encouraged complementary community activities. In recognition of such benefits, Artrain USA just received a 2006 National Award for Museum and Library Science, a federal honor for community service that has also gone to the likes of the Corcoran Gallery of Art in D.C. and the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

This will be the last opportunity to see *Native Views* back on its home rails before it departs for a tour of the Southeast and Midwest. The exhibit will be dismantled in late 2007.

—Stephanie Kadel-Taras

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 West Liberty. *Shifting Boundaries: Nature and Spirituality* (January 5–February 18). Reception 5 Friday, 6–8 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 South Fifth Avenue. *Second Annual Ann Arbor District Library Staff Art Show; Curriculum of Color: Student Art from Rudolf Steiner School* (January 18–February 27). 327–4510.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, East Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall. *EMU Faculty Collects* (January 22–February 23). Reception 22 Monday, 4–6 p.m. 487–0465.

EMU University Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood. *EMU Faculty Art Exhibition* (January 16–March 9). Reception 16 Tuesday, 4–6 p.m. 487–1077.

The Gallery Project, 215 South Fourth Avenue. *Identity Expression* (January 5–February 11). Reception 5 Friday, 6–9 p.m. 997–7012.

Lane Hall, 204 South State. *Jake in Transition* (January 2–April 15). 647–0774.

River Gallery, 120 North Main, Chelsea. *Group Exhibition* (January 20–February 24). 433–0826.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron, Ypsilanti. *Watermedia* (January 4–28). Reception 12 Friday, 5–7 p.m. 480–2787.

U-M Exhibit Museum of Natural History, 1109 Geddes. *Climate Change: Local Impacts, Global Responsibility* (opens January 19). See 21 Sunday. 763–4191.

U-M Institute for the Humanities, 915 East Washington. *Inside Asian Images: What the Contents of Religious Statues Can Tell Us about Local Religion in China* (January 22–26). 936–3518.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road. *The Conservatory's Oldest Plants* (January 1–31). 647–7808.

U-M Museum of Art Off/Site, 1301 South University Avenue. *Embracing Eatonville* (January 20–March 18). 763–UMMA.

U-M Palmer Commons, 100 Washtenaw. *Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace* (January 12–25). 330–0198.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art), Art & Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel. *Unleashed* (January 12–February 2). See 29 Monday. *Drawn Together* (January 12–February 2). Joint reception 12 Friday, 6–9 p.m. 763–4417.

Warren Robbins Center (U-M School of Art), Art & Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel. *Iceblink* (January 12–February 2). Reception 12 Friday, 6–8 p.m. 764–0397.

Washington Street Gallery, 120 East Liberty. *June in January* (January 4–February 11). Reception 5 Friday, 7–9 p.m. 761–2287.

Washtenaw Community College Gallery-One, 4800 East Huron River Drive. *Misfold* (January 8–February 28). See 17 Wednesday. Reception 24 Wednesday, 5:30–8 p.m. 477–8512.

Work, 306 South State. *If Other, Please Explain* (January 12–February 2). Reception 12 Friday, 6–9 p.m. 998–6178.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2006–2007 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

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the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). $4. 769–4324, 426–0241.

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** *January 4, 18, & 25.* Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *8–11 p.m., Michigan League room D (Jan. 4 & 18) & Koessler Room (Jan. 25). Free. 971–1809.*

★**Ann Arbor Ski Club.** *January 4 & 18.* All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. The January 18 meeting is followed by a **dance.** Refreshments available. *8–11 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. Free. 439–1102.*

"The Catfight": Improv Inferno. *Every Thursday.* Two improv groups TBA present a half hour of their best comedy, and the audience chooses "who goes home in shame." Alcohol is served. *8–10:30 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. $5. 214–7080.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Chrissy Burns: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *January 4–6.* Popular local comic known for her sassy, brassy style and her hapless tales of dieting, dating, and life on the road. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served (all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows). *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 (Thurs.) & $8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Dreamgirls" (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"The History Boys"** (Nicholas Hytner, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA.

5 FRIDAY

★**"Friday Chelsea Winter Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Friday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 34–45 miles, to either Dexter, Grass Lake, Munith, Stockbridge, or the Waterloo Recreation Area. *9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 851–8323 & (517) 285–6830.*

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** *Every Friday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Joanne Ryder's ***Dance by the Light of the Moon*** and Giles Andreae's ***Giraffes Can't Dance.*** Also this month: Evelyn Scott's ***Fourteen Bears in Summer*** and Alice Low's ***Summer*** (January 12), Christopher Loupy's ***Hugs and Kisses*** and Margaret Anastas's ***A Hug for You*** (January 19), and Annie Appleford's ***M is for Mitten*** (January 26). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Monday & Friday.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Friday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *1–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Design a Chinese Dragon": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids age 8 & up invited to design their own dragon. Materials provided. *2–4 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327–4200.*

★**First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** JCS students lead a secular Shabbat celebration that includes candle lighting, singing, and other Jewish rituals. Bring a dessert to pass. All invited. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935*

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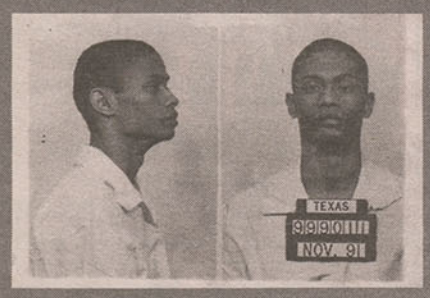

Documentary photographs collected by Bill Crawford, author and producer, Austin, Texas

Free, open to the public, Mon–Fri, 9:00–5:00 pm. Groups and classes are welcome. www.lsa.umich.edu/humin/ events, email humin@umich.edu, or call 734 936 3518.

Institute for the Humanities

Texas Death Row: Executions by Lethal Injection

Institute for the Humanities
University of Michigan
202 South Thayer, Ann Arbor
January 25 – February 24, 2007

Wed, Feb 7, 4:30–6:30 pm
Opening Reception with Gallery Talk by Bill Crawford, 5:15 pm

Thu, Feb 8, 12:00 pm, Lecture
Bill Crawford and Larry Fitzgerald, former Public Information Manager, Texas Department of Criminal Justice: "Texas Death Row: Executions by Lethal Injection, 1982–2007"

5 FRIDAY *continued*

Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.

★Silent Meditation: Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. *Every Friday.* All invited to sit in silent meditation. *7–8 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 996–1332.*

★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. *January 5 & 19.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's *A Road to Self-Knowledge*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

Josh Brown Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. This New York-based, Canadian-born trombonist is known for a warm, dark sound and sense of swing. He's performed on the *David Letterman Show, PBS Great Performances,* and other TV shows. Tonight's concert is a CD release party for Brown's ***The Feeling of Jazz.*** The other members of his quartet are Ann Arbor-born and New York-based guitarist **Randy Napoleon,** bassist Rodney Whitaker, and drummer Quincy Davis. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

The Yellow Room Gang: The Ark. *See review, p. 67.* In-the-round performances by this group of 8 award-winning veteran Michigan songwriters who get together regularly to share their new work. Members are **David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba,** and **Michael Hough** and **David Tamulevich** of the local duo Mustard's Retreat. The Yellow Room Gang recently released an eponymous compilation CD featuring brand-new songs by each artist. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Citizen Improv": Improv Inferno. *Every Friday.* Local comics invent scenes based on stories told by audience members. Alcohol is served. *8–9:30 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. $10. 214–7080.*

Chrissy Burns: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

1st Friday Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 973–1933.*

"Swing Dance Party": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Friday.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, blues, and balboa, to DJs TBA. No partner necessary. Preceded at 9 p.m. by a beginners lesson. *9:45 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution, 603 E. William. $5 (students with ID, $4). 945–8428.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Painted Veil" (John Curran, 2006). *January 5–11.* A social-misfit British bacteriologist persuades his new wife, who turns out to be a shallow adulteress, to accompany him to work in China. Based on the Somerset Maugham novel. Naomi Watts, Edward Norton, Liev Schreiber. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Dreamgirls"** (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA.

6 SATURDAY

"Winter Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike through a variety of habitats to discover what bird species are in the park. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *8 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 426–8211.*

★"T'ai Chi Ch'uan at the Cube." *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Local t'ai chi instructor Chad Eisner leads a session of these slow meditative movements for beginning and advanced practitioners. *9 a.m., U-M Cube, between the Union and the SAB. Free. 930–2747.*

★"Snowcology: Arb Ramble": U-M Nichols Arboretum. Arb naturalist Robert Ayotte leads a hike through the Arb and discusses how plants adapt to winter. *9:30 a.m., meet at the Reader Center, 1610 Washington Heights. Free. Preregistration required. 647–7600.*

★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Saturday.* 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. *Note*: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone or change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 973–9225.*

★Walk: Grex. *Every Saturday (different locations).* All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Nature Area (January 6) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (January 13, 20, & 27). *10 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Nature Area (Jan. 6) and in Gallup Park parking lot (Jan. 13, 20, & 27), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 741–9351.*

Tour: Zingerman's Bakehouse. *Every Saturday.* A chance to view artisanal bread and pastry baking and get a free treat. Kids under age 6 not admitted. *10 a.m., Zingerman's Bakehouse, 3711 Plaza Dr. $5 (kids ages 6–12, free). Reservations required. 761–7255.*

★"Michigan Campaign Finance Network": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Michigan Campaign Finance Network executive director Richard Robinson discusses the group's plans for 2007–2008. Preceded at 9:45 a.m. by coffee & socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

"Sciencepalooza": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *January 6 & 7.* This popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area features an array of attended hands-on activity tables. This month's topic: **"The Magic of Science."** *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Jan. 6) & noon–5 p.m. (Jan. 7), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw R/C Raceway. *January 6 & 20.* Indoor dirt-track racing for stock and modified model trucks and buggies. Hobby equipment sale by Riders Hobby. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m. (doors open at 8 a.m.)–midafternoon, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. (313) 565–2815.*

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $4 per player; free for spectators. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 434–1615.*

★Storytime: Nicola's Books. *Every Saturday.* Storytelling program for kids under age 7. *11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Storytelling: Borders Express. A children's book author TBA reads from his or her book. Followed by signing. *11 a.m., Borders Express, Briarwood mall. Free. 669–0785.*

"The Sky Tonight"/"Ring World": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday through January 7. The Sky Tonight* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. *Ring World* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about the journey of the robotic spacecraft *Cassini* to Saturn and its fascinating discoveries about this planet. Followed by a brief star talk. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $3.75. 764–0478.*

★"Mochitsuki": U-M Center for Japanese Studies. All invited to help prepare *mochi,* a traditional New Year's sweet rice cake. Also, origami and calligraphy demos, storytelling, and games. *1–4 p.m., International Institute Gallery, SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. Preregistration required. 763–4301.*

★"Get Out & Ski About": Waterloo Recreation Area. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh and other Waterloo staff introduce kids age 10 & up and adults to the basics of cross-country skiing. *2 & 3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

San Francisco Art Institute senior vice-president Okwui Enwezor speaks Jan. 7 in the UMMA's "Reimagining the Museum" talk series.

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. *3–4 p.m., Oz's Music, 1920 Packard. $10. 662–8283.*

★**Children's Movie: Arborland Borders.** *Every Saturday.* Kids (accompanied by a parent) invited to bring teddy bears and watch a family film TBA. Popcorn. *6 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. *January 6 & 20.* Glen Geer calls square dances for experienced dancers to recorded music. No partner necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes (not tennis shoes). *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Church, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. $5. 433–0308.*

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Contra dancing with caller Drake Meadow and Don Theyken and music by Twas Brillig and the Mazel Toves. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat-soled shoes. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9; AACTMAD members, $8; students, $5. 769–1052.*

Shout Sister Shout: The Ark. Jazz standards of the 30s and 40s by this new ensemble that brings together the velvet-voiced young Cadillac, Michigan, singer-songwriter **Rachael Davis** with the versatile Lansing acoustic string quartet **Steppin' in It.** Their repertoire includes songs associated with the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, the Nat King Cole Trio, and Louis Jordan. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. *Every Saturday.* A competition among 6 improv comics, who play silly improv games, a la *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Each comic competes on behalf of 6 audience members for such fabulous prizes as a mealtime supply of Rice-a-Roni. Ages 18 & older admitted. Alcohol is served. *8–9:30 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. Tickets $10 in advance and at the door. 214–7080.*

Chrissy Burns: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** *January 6 & 20.* Tango dancing to recorded music. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 973–2338.*

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution, 603 E. William. $5. 945–8428.*

The Dirty Americans: The Blind Pig. Detroit quartet whose loud, heavy, guitar-driven rock 'n' roll has provoked comparisons to Helmet and the Rollins Band. Opening acts are **Liftpoint,** a Chicago progressive rock band, and **Red, White, and Booze,** an 80s metal tribute band. *10 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors open at 9 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. $8 (under age 21, $11) at the door only. 996–8555.*

FILMS

MTF. "Dreamgirls" (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"The Painted Veil"** (John Curran, 2006). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

7 SUNDAY

★**Falun Gong.** *Every Sunday.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. *8:30–10:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 834–4978.*

★**Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to sitting (9:30 a.m.) and chanting (10 a.m.) meditation. *9:30 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495, 678–7549.*

★**"Annual Winter Hike and Potluck": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a bracing winter hike that concludes with a 5-minute hike uphill for a cozy indoor potluck (bring a dish and your own table service). *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Park Lyndon South (park in east lot), North Territorial Rd. (15 miles west of US-23). Free. 971–6337.*

★**"Fairydoor 5K & the Treetown 10K": Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club.** Self-guided walk to view the 8 miniature "fairy doors" sprinkled around downtown. Also, peeks at architectural features that include dragons, griffins, and cherubs. Route directions provided. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington St. Free. 649–5024.*

★**Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry.** *Every Sunday.* Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. *10–11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477–5848.*

★**Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Sunday through December 17.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Today's topic: **"Attachment, Appreciation, and Love."** Also this month: **"Determining Destiny"** (January 14), **"Anger and Patience"** (January 21), and **"Alone, Not Lonely"** (January 28). *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations accepted. 994–3387.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sunday.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: **potluck and planning session.** Bring a dish to pass. Also this month: First Presbyterian members Jerry and Mary Gray discuss their experiences in **"Kenya"** (January 14), First Singles members discuss **"Women in the Bible"** (January 21), and First Presbyterian member Polly Pan leads a discussion of an audiotaped lecture on **"John and James, the Sons of Zebedee"** (January 28) from the Teaching Company series *Great Figures in the New Testament.* Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

★**"Grace at Every Age: Better Health Through Better Eating": First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sunday.* Talks by U-M dieticians. Today: Holly Scherer discusses **"Food Is Fuel."** Also this month: Erica Wald on **"Ways to Weigh No More"** (January 14), Nancy Burke on **"Food for Life: Choices That Matter"** (January 21), and Cathy Fitzgerald on **"Feeding Our Children Well"** (January 28). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**Tour: Zingerman's Creamery.** *Every Sunday.* Zingerman's cheesemaker John Loomis leads a tour of the new facility where Zingerman's cheeses are made. *Noon–2 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. Free. 929–0500.*

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Winter Democratic Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Sunday.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994–5908.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Penn State. *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**"Kerry Tales: A New Year with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's (Kerrytown), 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 769–3115.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *2–3 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

★**Talk & Tour: Sunward Cohousing.** *Every Sunday.* A resident gives a short talk about Sunward Cohousing, which consists of condos designed to foster an old-fashioned sense of neighborhood and to preserve open space. Followed by a tour. Also, a cohousing representative is at Nicola's Books at 7 p.m. on January 7 to talk about cohousing. *2 p.m., Sunward Cohousing, 424 Little Lake Dr. Free. 930–6425.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**"Reimagining the Museum": U-M Museum of Art.** *January 7 & 21.* Part of a series of talks on the role of museums in 21st-century civic and intellectual life. Today's speaker: San Francisco Art Institute senior vice president **Okwui Enwezor,** author of *The Postcolonial Constellation: Contemporary Art in a State of Permanent Transition* and *Archaeology of the Present: The Postcolonial Archive, Photography, and African Modernity.* Also this month: **Kathy Halbreich,** director of Minneapolis's Walker Art Center, which NPR has called "a bastion of contemporary art in the Midwest." *3 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater (4th floor). Free. 764–0395.*

★**"The Leach Pottery": Yourist Pottery.** Screening of a video of this silent homemade B&W 1952 film that explores the studio and work of Bernard Leach, the English potter regarded as the "father of modern pottery" who almost single-handedly rescued the art from oblivion in the early 20th century. *4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House barn, 2625 Traver Blvd. Free. 747–8138.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sunday.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

★**Auditions: Ann Arbor Civic Theater.** *January 7 & 8.* All invited to try out for a spot in a March 15–18 production of *The Tempest. 7 p.m., AACT Studio, 322 W. Ann. Free. 971–2228.*

★**Mass Meeting: U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society.** All invited to learn about ways to participate in a March 29–April 1 production of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta *The Grand Duke. 7:30 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 647–8436.*

Jill Jack: The Ark. Folk-rock band led by this sultry-voiced Detroit singer-songwriter whose music also draws freely on jazz and country flavors. Her 2005 CD *Moon and the Morning After* won a Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Folk Recording. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $16 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Contemporary Klezmer and Popular Culture": Beth Israel Congregation.** U-M American culture professor Jonathan Freedman discusses and plays audio samples of the influence of klezmer on hip-hop, jazz, Latin, and other musical idioms. *7:45–9:15 p.m., Beth Israel, 2010 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations required. 665–9897.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Every Sunday.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom (Jan. 7 & 21), Michigan League Ballroom (Jan. 14), & location TBA (Jan. 28). $3. 763–6984.*

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. *Every Sunday.* Open mike for up-and-coming local stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. Tickets $5 in advance and at the door. 214–7080.*

"Rap It Up": Improv Inferno. *Every Sunday.* Improv comedy alternating with rapping. "Just like *8 Mile,* except funny on purpose," say organizers. Alcohol is served. *9:30 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. $5. 214–7080.*

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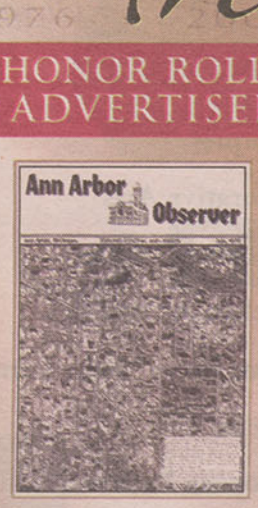

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The Ann Arbor Art Center is committed to providing quality education, exhibition and exploration of the visual arts. Walk in the front door and allow your senses to be flooded with the sights, sounds, and smells of a true working art community. Don't be shy! We urge you to allow yourself to get lost in the magic of this dynamic organization. Wander through the gallery and the shop before you journey up the wooden stairs to delight in additional offerings in our second gallery.

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7 SUNDAY *continued*

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. *Every Sunday.* Character-driven improv by the quintet Eye Candy. Alcohol is served. *10:30 p.m., Live at PJ's, 102 S. First St. Tickets $5 in advance and at the door. 214–7080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Dreamgirls" (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"The Painted Veil"** (John Curran, 2006). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

8 MONDAY

★"World Wide Web Tools": Ann Arbor District Library. Hands-on introduction to web basics, including how to surf and search the web. *10 a.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate shopping center, & 1 p.m., Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army. *Every Monday except January 1.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch ($1) and socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. *Every Monday except January 1.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($100 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213–3770, 663–5907.*

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. *Every Monday except January 1.* Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. with **Just for Men,** a discussion group for men. Also, **"Fitness Fun"** (11 a.m.–noon), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, and the **Writing Group** (1–3 p.m.). Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

U-M Club of Ann Arbor. *January 8, 15, 22, & 29.* U-M men's basketball coach **Tommy Amaker** is joined for weekly lunchtime talks by men's wrestling coach **Joe McFarland** (January 8), men's swimming coach **Bob Bowman** (January 15), men's gymnastics coach **Scott Vetere** (January 22), and women's soccer coach **Debbie Rademacher** (January 29). *11:15 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $14 (members, $9; seniors, $8.50). 663–7420.*

★"Food for Life": Whole Foods Market. Jan Kemp, a local representative of the D.C.-based nonprofit the Cancer Project, shows how to prepare foods thought to help prevent cancer. Today: **"Fueling Up on Low-Fat Foods."** Also this month: **"Favoring Fiber"** (January 15), **"Discovering Dairy Alternatives"** (January 22), and **"Replacing Meat"** (January 29). *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. & 6–7:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

★Brown Bag Lectures: U-M Population Studies Center. *January 8 & 22.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: U-M social demography professor Reynolds Farley discusses **"The Declining Multiple Race Population of the U.S. and the American Community Survey: 2000 to 2005."** Also this month: MSU sociology professor Barbara Schneider on **"Being Together, Working Apart: Results from the 500 Family Study"** (January 22). *Noon, 6050 ISR, 426 Thompson. Free. 763–1414.*

★Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Monday except January 1.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★"Covering the New Secrecy: The Press and Public Policy": U-M Wallace House. Talks by renowned *Washington Post* investigative journalist **Bob Woodward** and U.S. Information Security Oversight Office director **J. William Leonard.** Following his talk, Woodward joins a panel discussion with *New York Times* managing editor Jill Abramson, *National Public Radio* national security correspondent Jackie Northam, *Wall Street Journal* editorial board member Robert Pollack, Project for Excellence in Journalism director Tom Rosenstiel, and Fox News *On The Record* host Greta Van Susteren. Following Leonard's talk, he joins a panel discussion with Federation of American Scientists Project on Government Secrecy director Stephen Aftergood, former Bush administration associate counsel to the president Bradford Berenson, National Security

Archives director Thomas Blanton, Hearst Corporation general counsel Eve Burton, and U-M Law School First Amendment specialist Leonard Niehoff. *1–5 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom. Free. 998–7666.*

★**"Citizenships in Iran": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by Harvard University visiting scholar **Fatemeh Haghighatjoo.** *4–6 p.m., G333 Mason Hall, 419 S. State. Free. 764–0350.*

★**"Painting the Resistance: Art Show and Workshop": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Several local, regional, and national artists each paint, on a separate canvas, their conception of social resistance. The pieces will then be sewn together into a single work. Also, an exhibit of the artists' other works. *6 p.m., Trotter House Multicultural Center, 1443 Washtenaw. Free. 936–0225.*

★**Huron Valley Toastmasters.** *Every Monday except January 1.* Members give speeches, receive helpful feedback from experienced members, and learn through observing and practicing. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Occupational Ed. Bldg., room 158, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors. 972–4619.*

★**The Barony of Cynnabar.** *Every Monday except January 1.* All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on re-creating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts & crafts. *7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at cynnabar.org.*

★**Book Discussion Leader Training Sessions: 2007 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads.** *January 8, 12, & 18.* Training session for anyone interested in moderating public or private discussions of Tracy Kidder's ***Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World,*** the book that has been chosen this year for the annual communitywide reading program (see 25 Thursday listing). *7–8:30 p.m., Ypsilanti District Library (Jan. 8), 5577 Whittaker Rd.; Ann Arbor Senior Center (Jan. 12), 1320 Baldwin; & Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (Jan. 18), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Preregistration required. 879–1303 (Jan. 8 session), 327–4560 (Jan. 12 & 18).*

★**Wholistic Doc.** *January 8, 16, & 31.* Talks by local chiropractors Shannon Dicks and Darren Schmidt. Today: Dicks on **"Lick the Sugar Habit."** Also this month: Dicks on **"Depression"** (January 16) and Schmidt on **"Cut Chronic Pain Out of Your Life"** (January 31). *7–8 p.m., Wholistic Doc, 3610 W. Liberty. Free. Reservations required. 302–7575.*

★**"Minty and His Cavalry: A History of the Saber Brigade and Its Commander": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table.** Club member Rand Bitter discusses his book about the general who commanded the Michigan cavalry regiment that captured Jefferson Davis as he was fleeing after Lincoln's assassination. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr.), Ypsilanti. Free. 930–0617.*

★**"Shifting Boundaries": Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion with 3 artists whose work is featured in this current Ann Arbor Art Center exhibit (see Galleries): Traven Pelletier, Lynda Cole, and Francesc Burgos. They discuss the exhibit, nature themes in their work, and the influences of installation artist Andy Goldsworthy and the landscape design profession. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus.** *Every Monday except January 1.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. *7–9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 973–6084.*

Dream Group. *Every Monday except January 1.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Donation. 662–5925.*

★**"Problem Solving for Individuals Recovering from Mental Illness: The MacFarlane Method": National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Washtenaw County.** Talk by NAMI facilitator Donna Estabrook. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. 994–6611.*

★**"Martial Arts Themes on Stamps of the World": Ann Arbor Stamp Club.** Talk by club member Joan Anderson. Also, a mini-auction. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761–5859.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Corrine Hillebrand. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 663–6297.*

★**"Boys of Baraka": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Screening of Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady's 2005 documentary about at-risk African American boys in Baltimore who flourish at an experimental school in Kenya. *8 p.m., Trotter House Multicultural Center, 1443 Washtenaw. Free. 936–0225.*

FILMS

Melange Subterranean Bistro. "Monday Night Movie & Dinner." Dinner (salad, entree, & dessert) followed by screening of a classic movie. Tonight: ***Sideways*** (Alexander Payne, 2004) is a romantic comedy about 2 friends approaching middle age who take a road trip through California wine country. Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church. Menu prices range from $5 to $30. Space limited; reservations recommended. 222–0202. Melange (314 S. Main), 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Dreamgirls"** (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"The Painted Veil"** (John Curran, 2006). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

9 TUESDAY

★**"E-Mail Basics": Ann Arbor District Library.** Hands-on introduction to basic e-mail features, including how to apply for an account, and opening, reading, and sending e-mail and attachments. *Note:* This program is also offered on January 22 at the Pittsfield (10 a.m.) & Malletts Creek (1 p.m.) branches. *10 a.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate shopping center, & 1 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★**Group Drumming and Singing: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *January 9 & 23.* All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for singing, drumming, and dancing. Drums provided. *10:30–11 a.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Humanities.** *Every Tuesday beginning January 9.* Today: U-M music professor **Bright Sheng** and Tony-winning playwright **David Henry Hwang** discuss their collaboration on ***The Silver River*** (see 12 Friday listing), a 1997 musical that blends Western and Chinese theatrical traditions. Also this month: performance artist **Sekou Sundiata** (see 20 Saturday listing) discusses his upcoming performance of ***51st (dream) state*** (January 16), U-M Asian languages & cultures professor James Robson discusses **"Inside Asian Images: What the Contents of Religious Statues Can Tell Us about Local Religion in China"** (January 23), and *pipa* player **Yang Wei** (see 24 Wednesday listing) presents a lecture-demo on **"The Pipa: On the Silk Road and Beyond"** (January 30). *Noon–1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 1022. Free. 936–3518.*

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** *January 9 & 13.* Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. Also, make a decorative pin or magnet using colorful used postage stamps. *3–5 p.m. (Jan. 9) & 10 a.m.–noon (Jan. 13), Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.*

★**"Racism: Where Does It Come From?": U-M Classics Department/20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** U-M classics professor Sara Forsdyke and U-M rabbinic literature professor Yaron Eliav moderate a discussion based on Benjamin Isaac's 2004 book *The Invention of Racism in Classical Antiquity. 4 p.m., 2175 Angell Hall. Free. 936–6099.*

★**Concerto Competition Finals: U-M School of Music.** *January 9–11.* Three days of performances by finalists in the U-M's concerto competition. Today: undergrad and grad students perform works over 20 minutes long. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Starting Your Own Business": U-M Center for the Education of Women.** Talk by Yodit Mesfin, program manager for the Michigan Women's Marketplace, an initiative of the Center for Empowerment and Economic Development. *4:30 p.m., CEW, 330 E. Liberty. Free. 998–7080.*

★**"Project Design: High School Fashion Show and Juried Exhibition": Ann Arbor District Library.** *January 9 & 20.* All teens in grades 9–12 invited to compete for a spot in an April 6 runway show. Applicants must complete an entry form, make a 5-minute presentation to a panel of judges, and submit sketches of their designs and a written description (500 words or less), along with 5 copies. Applicants may also submit photos of their designs, letters of recommendation and awards, samples of clothes they have created, and other visuals or hands-on materials. *6–8 p.m. (Jan. 9) & 2–4 p.m. (Jan. 20), AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

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JANUARY 7 / Okwui Enwezor, Dean of Academic Affairs and Senior Vice President at the San Francisco Art Institute, Artistic Director of the Bienal Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo de Sevilla, curator at the International Center of Photography, and writer with a deep interest in representing post-colonial Africa to the world

JANUARY 28 / Kathy Halbreich, Director of the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, veteran of two prominent museum building projects, and an advocate for expanding the civic role of both artists and audiences within cultural institutions

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★**Ann Arbor Checkers and Draughts Society.** *January 9 & 23.* Adults invited to play checkers, known as draughts in England. Also, participants can try to solve tricky end-of-game brainteasers. *6:30 p.m., downtown cafe TBA. Free. 827–0328.*

★**Member Showcase: Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild.** Club members show and give short talks on their recent weaving, felting, beading, quilting, basketry, and other fiber arts. Refreshments. *6:30 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–0703.*

★**"Meet and Walk": Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club.** All invited to learn about the club's future walking excursions. Followed by a stroll around Gallup Park. *7–8 p.m., Gallup Park Canoe Livery meeting room (west side of Huron Pkwy.), 3000 Fuller Rd. Free. 649–5024.*

"Attaining Lasting Satisfaction": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Tuesday except January 2.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Tonight's topic: **"Choosing Life."** Also this month: **"The Impact of Death"** (January 16), **"The Four Noble Truths: The Truth of Suffering I"** (January 23), and **"The Four Noble Truths: The Truth of Suffering II"** (January 30). *7–8:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. $10 (students & seniors, $5). 994–3387.*

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & older invited to discuss ***The Years of Rice and Salt,*** Kim Stanley Robinson's alternative history of what might have happened if the Plague had had a greater impact and Islam and Buddhism had encountered a diminished West. *7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Bowling Green. *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

★**"Big Coal: The Dirty Secret Behind America's Energy Future": Sierra Club Book Club.** All invited to discuss journalist Jeff Goodell's analysis of the cost and consequences of coal-generated energy, in preparation for a talk on mountaintop removal (see 16 Tuesday listing). *7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 332–0207.*

★**Biweekly Meetings: Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** *January 9 & 23.* U-M Outdoor Adventures director Jeannette Stawski discusses **"Ski Trail Emergencies; or, I'm Pretty Tired, It's Getting Dark, and I Know I Shouldn't Ski Alone, but I Think I'll Go Around One More Time."** Also this month: U-M botanist Ellen Weatherbee discusses **"Foraging for Wild Edibles along the Ski Trail"** (January 23). Also, a 10-minute clinic on a cross-country ski technique TBA. Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing. *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House. Free. 662–SKIS.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *January 9 & 16.* Tonight: nationally published Beverly Hills, Michigan, photographer and photography writer **Kevin Moss** discusses his career, and club members and guests show their recent slides. Also this month: club members Matt Callow, Bill Bresler, and Michael Myers discuss **"Alternative Photographic Methods: Toy and Pinhole Cameras, Their History and Use Today,"** and club members show their recent prints (January 16). *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free ($15 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

★**Introduction to Anthroposophy: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Informal monthly talk on our relationship to the cosmos as described by Rudolf Steiner. This month: former Waldorf teacher and administrator Sian Owen-Cruise discusses **"Aspects of Waldorf Education."** *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. Wheelchair-accessible. 485–3764.*

Hoodang: The Ark. *See review, p. 71.* Wry, pungent alt-country by this local trio led by singer-songwriter and guitarist David Rossiter. With Drew Howard on pedal steel, dobro, mandolin, guitar, banjo, and vocals, and John Latini on bass, dobro, guitar, and vocals. Tonight's show, which is being recorded for a live CD, features guest appearances by various other local alt-country performers, including *(tentatively)* Whit Hill and the Hummingbirds. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $11 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Dreamgirls" (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"The Painted Veil"** (John Curran, 2006). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

10 WEDNESDAY

★**"Women in Azerbaijan": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Talk by IRWG visiting scholar Sahiba Gafarova. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764–9537.*

★**"From Gold Coast to Slave Coast: West Africa in the Emerging Atlantic Economy, 1500–1900": U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies.** Talk by U-M Afroamerican and African studies and economics professor Warren Whatley. *Noon, 4701 Haven Hall, 505 S. State. Free. 764–5518.*

★**"Meet the Mac": Ann Arbor District Library.** *January 10 & 17.* Hands-on 2-part introduction to the iMac OSX Tiger. *1–3 p.m., AADL Mac Lab (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★**"After School Is Cool! Draw Japanese Manga": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids age 9 & up invited to try their hand at manga, the Japanese art of cartooning. *4–5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Lucretius and the Moderns: Victorian to Enlightenment (and Beyond)": U-M Contexts for Classics.** Talk by University of Glasgow English literature reader Stuart Gillespie, coauthor of *The Cambridge Companion to Lucretius. 4 p.m., 2175 Angell Hall. Free. 936–6099.*

★**Concerto Competition Finals: U-M School of Music.** See 9 Tuesday. Today: grad students perform works under 20 minutes long. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Peace Cafe": Michigan Peaceworks.** Rootsy country-pop by Paul's Big Radio singer-songwriter **Paul Lippens.** Followed by a talk by new Michigan Peaceworks director Joel Eckel. Q&A. *6–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. $5 suggested donation. 761–5922.*

★**Ann Arbor Magic Club.** All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magical arts. *7 p.m., Georgetown Country Club, 1365 King George Blvd. Free. 482–9523.*

★**"A Holistic Approach to Women's Health and Infertility": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local acupuncturist Gary Merel. *7–9 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

★**"The Life of a Figure Skater: Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion with national and international figure skating judge Margaret Faulkner and 2 Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club ice dancing pairs, U.S. junior silver medalists Emily Samuelson and Evan Bates and 2006 U.S. novice silver medalists Madison and Kieffer Hubbell. Both pairs represented the U.S. in December at the International Figure Skating Union Junior Grand Prix in Bulgaria. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** *Every Wednesday beginning January 10.* Featured writers read from their current work. Tonight: fiction readings by U-M creative writing grad student **Nami Mun,** winner of a Pushcart Prize for her story "Shelter," and U-M creative writing lecturer **Augustus Rose.** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Matthaei Botanical Gardens Centennial": Garden Club of Ann Arbor.** Talks by Matthaei and Nichols Arboretum director Bob Grese and members of the local native-plant landscaping group Wild Ones. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 994–0747.*

★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** Local journalist Lois Marharg leads a discussion of Linda Greenhouse's ***Becoming Justice Blackmun.*** Note new location. *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey Booksellers, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Dreamgirls" (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"The Painted Veil"** (John Curran, 2006). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **U-M Center for Judaic Studies/20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. "Encounter Point"** (Ronit Avni, 2006). *January 10 & 11.* Documentary about grassroots peace efforts made by a former Israeli settler, a Palestinian ex-prisoner, a bereaved Israeli mother, and a wounded Palestinian brother. FREE. 763–9047. Michigan Theater, time TBA. **WCBN-FM. "The Harder They Come"** (Perry Henzell, 1972). An aspiring Jamaican reggae star, turned into an outlaw by the corruption of the music business, becomes an underground na-

singer-songwriters

Matt Watroba.

The Yellow Room Gang

On the couch

First of all, my wife did not want to go. We were new in town, still unpacking, wondering what life in a "small town" was going to be like after we'd spent eleven years in Chicago. "I've never heard of any of these people," she said, looking at the listing for the Yellow Room Gang at the Ark. "It's a gang. That can't be good," she went on. She's like that.

In fact, the Yellow Room Gang is a very good gang—a militant cadre of eight songwriters from the Ann Arbor and Detroit areas who have been getting together for a couple of years in the home of David Tamulevich, a local songwriter who also runs a booking agency for folk artists and conveniently has a yellow room. The point, it seems, is fellowship, encouragement, maybe even a little ruthless criticism—and every songwriter I've ever met needs that. That and dinner.

It was our first visit to the famous Ark. We expected mikes and instruments on the stage, but not a big old shabby couch covered with grinning, wisecracking, backslapping songwriters. They didn't all fit on the couch. There were also chairs. The Gang—David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Michael Hough, Jan Krist, David Tamulevich, and Matt Watroba—stayed onstage all night as each singer took center stage, sang a song, and sat back down. Everyone seemed to know every song, and they backed each other up with harmonies, hot guitar licks, and egg shaker.

I wish I'd taken notes; this all took place sometime last winter, and my memory of precisely who sang what has been softened to a series of memory flashes: a hauntingly beautiful song about a river, a funny song about love and togetherness that had me and the missus smooching in the back row (where we always like to sit for that very reason). There was a beautiful sing-along. It was a great, warm evening, filled with laughter, stories, reverence, cool songs, and terrific guitar slinging. We went home with the group's brand-new, self-titled CD, which has two songs by each artist. We play it a lot and have been back several times to see a few members in their own solo shows, or with their own bands.

The whole evening made me happy and a little jealous of all the fun they were having up there on the couch with their guitars. Best of all was witnessing—and feeling a part of—these ultratalented people's creative chemistry. My wife often reminds me that I can't carry a tune in a bucket (she's like that), but that night I felt like one of the gang.

The Yellow Room Gang returns to the Ark on Friday, January 5.

—T. J. Gilmore

tional hero. Classic reggae soundtrack. Jimmy Cliff. Followed by film shorts, unusual videos, and recorded music. FREE admission. 763–3500. Live at PJ's (102 S. First), 9 p.m.

11 THURSDAY

★**"Introduction to Microsoft Word": Ann Arbor District Library.** *January 11 & 12.* A 2-part hands-on introduction to this popular word-processing program. *10 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard), and 1 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★**"Bisexual Identity and Health: Consequences of Contestation": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Talk by U-M Substance Abuse Research Center postdoc fellow Wendy Bostwick. *Noon, 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764–9537.*

"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Chapter president Nabuko Sakoda leads a session of arranging flowers using the techniques of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $10 (members, $5) materials fee. (248) 685–7696.*

★**"Enlightenment, Emancipation, and National Identity: Koraes and the Ancients": U-M Center for European Studies "Conversations on Europe."** Tufts University political science professor Yannis Evrigenis discusses the work of the early 19th-century Greek nationalist philosopher and linguist Adamantios Koraes. *4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–2743.*

★**"Immigrant Women in the Shadows: From Invisibility to Inclusion": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Talk by SUNY Albany Center for Women in Government deputy director Dina Refki. *4–6 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764–9537.*

★**Thursday Talks: U-M Institute for Historical Studies.** *January 11 & 25.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: University of California history professor Mary Elizabeth Berry discusses **"Illustrating Work in Early Modern Japan: A New Subject for**

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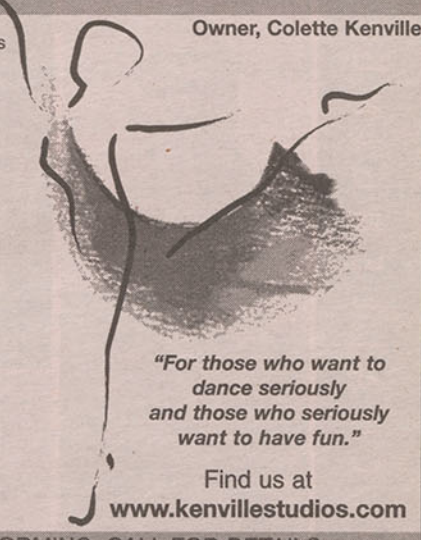

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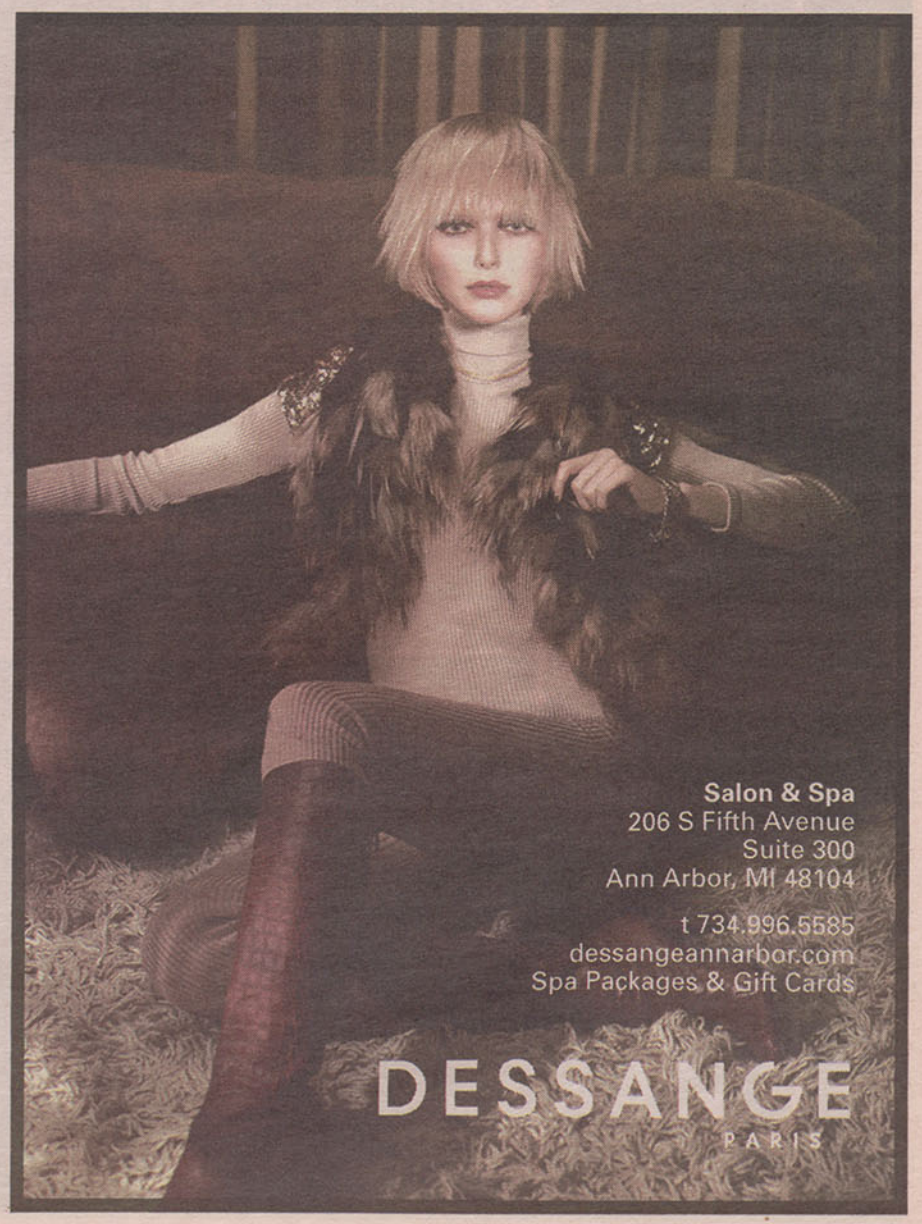

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11 THURSDAY *continued*

a New Society." Also this month: University of Paris American literature professor Francois Brunet and Harvard University humanities professor Robin Kelsey on a topic TBA (January 25). *4 p.m., Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 764–6305.*

★Concerto Competition Finals: U-M School of Music. See 9 Tuesday. Today: undergrad students perform works under 20 minutes long. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★"A Closer Walk": Ann Arbor District Library. Screening of Robert Bilheimer's documentary about the global AIDS epidemic. Followed by discussion led by Michigan Television station manager Jennifer White. In conjunction with 2007 Ann Arbor Ypsilanti Reads (see 25 Thursday listing). *6:30–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Wisconsin. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

"Porters and Browns": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen porters and brown beers from around the world. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

"Chocolate Tasting": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss and offer taste samples of newly arrived Valrhona (Hermitage, France) gourmet chocolates. *7–8 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $15. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health. Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

★"Men's Health: Aging Well." *January 11 & 18.* Talk by local holistic health care practitioner Malcolm Sickels. *7 p.m., Touchstone Cohousing meeting room (Jan. 11), 560 Little Lake Dr., & Whole Foods Market (Jan. 18), 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

★"Arizona, Utah, Colorado, & Wyoming": Of Global Interest. Local adventure tour owner Heather O'Neal screens a travel video about one-week trips she'll lead next August in the Grand Canyon and the Tetons. *7–8:30 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free. 369–3107.*

★Ann Arbor Cage Bird Club. All invited to join club members to watch a DVD on **"Captive Foraging for Parrots."** Followed by discussion. Bring your bird. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 662–4582.*

★"Piece of Mind: A Novel of Medicine & Philosophy": Nicola's Books. *January 11 & 14.* U-M surgery professor emeritus **Robert Bartlett** discusses his book. *7 p.m. (Jan. 11) & 2 p.m. (Jan. 14), Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★"The Apostles": Ann Arbor District Library/ Neutral Zone Book Club. All teens in grades 9–12 invited to discuss this novel about a showdown between two rival Chicago gangs by **Y. Blak Moore,** a former gang member-turned-social worker who is one of the rising stars of the genre of fiction known variously as "street lit," "ghetto lit," or "hip-hop lit." Refreshments. Also, Moore is at the relocated Neutral Zone (310 East Washington) on January 16, 7–9 p.m., to discuss his fiction with participants in tonight's discussion. In conjunction with 2002 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads (see 25 Thursday listing). *7–9 p.m., AADL 4th-floor conference room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327–8301.*

★"Open Mike Night: Expressing Identity Through Words": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Performances by local and regional spoken-word artists and musicians, and a Washington, D.C., hip-hop ensemble TBA. *7 p.m., Michigan League Underground. Free. 936–0225.*

★"Introduction to Rudolf Steiner's Anthroposophy": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. *January 11 & 25.* U-M physics professor emeritus Ernst Katz presents parts 2 and 3 of his series of introductory talks. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. Wheelchair-accessible. 662–6398.*

★"Mapplethorpe in Cincinnati: The Controversy, the Myth, and the Legacy": U-M Museum Studies. Talk by Dennis Barrie, former director of the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, which in 1990 hosted a famously controversial exhibit of Robert Mapplethorpe's photography. *7:30 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 936–6678.*

★**Katie Kahn: Washtenaw Community College GalleryOne.** Talk by this Northern Illinois University painting professor. Part of the reception (7–9 p.m.) for her current exhibit ***A Fantastic Galaxy of Complications***. Followed at 8:30 p.m. by a performance by an experimental music trio led by local musical maverick **Frank Pahl,** a inventively offbeat avant-folk composer-musician known for his seriously playful explorations of links between noise and music and his improvised instruments. *7:30 p.m., 375 Liberal Arts Bldg., Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 995–7530.*

★**"La Tragedie de Carmen": U-M School of Music Opera Workshop.** *January 11, 12, & 14.* Joshua Major directs U-M music students in Peter Brook's stripped-down 80-minute adaptation of the popular Bizet opera, a melodrama about a hot-blooded femme fatale who ruins a weak-willed soldier. Brook's raw, theatrical adaptation retains the essence of the original while heightening its passionate intensity. Sung in French. *7:30 p.m., McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

Ferron: The Ark. Popular Canadian singer-songwriter who sings in a clear, passionate alto with a spiky conversational edge and writes searching personal songs with hauntingly beautiful melodies and lyrics as taut and reverberant as the emotions they express. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Sweet Charity": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. *January 11–14.* Edmond Reynolds directs local actors in Neil Simon's frothy, poignant musical about a dance hall hostess who dreams about love and marriage but can't seem to find the right gentleman. Cast includes Kathy Waugh, Katie Hoeg, January Provenzola, Erik Wright-Olsen, Peter Kentes, Kathleen Beardmore, Henry Naasko, and David Velez-Felix. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets $24 (students & seniors $21; Thursday, $15) in advance and at the door. 971–2228.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★**"Rize": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Screening of David LaChapelle's 2005 documentary about krumping, a dance style originating in South Central L.A. that combines elements of hip-hop and a dance style called "clowning" and serves as an alternative to joining a street gang. *8 p.m., Trotter House Multicultural Center, 1443 Washtenaw. Free. 936–0225.*

Allyn Ball: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *January 11–13.* Veteran comic with an unreconstructed punk attitude and an intelligently fresh and funny point of view. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served (all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows). *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 (Thurs.) & $11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"The Catfight": Improv Inferno. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Dreamgirls" (Bill Condon, 2006). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"The Painted Veil"** (John Curran, 2006). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **U-M Center for Judaic Studies. "Encounter Point"** (Ronit Avni, 2006). See 10 Wednesday. Mich., time TBA.

12 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation). A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6. 997–1553.*

★**"'Minorities' in a Multiethnic and Multinational Empire: Life in an Ottoman Balkan Town": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by CMENAS director Gottfried Hagen. *11 a.m.–noon, 2004 Modern Languages, 812 E. Washington. Free. 764–0350.*

★**"American Diversity in the Global Community": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** U-M students who have participated in overseas study and internship programs and the Peace Corps give talks on their experiences. *2–3:30 p.m., 9 International Center, 603 E. Madison. Free. 647–2299.*

★**"Buying a Digital Camera": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staff explain options available in digital cameras. *3–5 p.m., AADL training room (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★**"'What Do You Claim?': Language, Racialized Nationalism, and the Politicization of California Latina/o Youth Groups": U-M Linguistics Department.** Talk by University of Arizona anthropology professor Norma Mendoza-Denton. *4 p.m., location TBA. Free. 764–0353.*

★**"Bike Maintenance": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce getDowntown Program.** Ann Arbor police officer Kathy Vonk, a certified bike maintenance instructor, shows how to help your bike last longer and provide a safer, easier ride. Bring your bike; tools provided. Followed by socializing at Ann Arbor Brewing Company. *6–8 p.m., meet at City Hall, N. Fifth Ave. at Huron. Free. 214–0100.*

"Friday Night Live": Ann Arbor Parks Department Youth Outreach Program. Supervised dance party for middle (7–9:30 p.m.) and high school (9:30 p.m.–midnight) students. DJs play a variety of current R&B, rock, rap, and pop. *7 p.m.–midnight, Cobblestone Farm Barn, 2781 Packard. $3. 997–1615.*

"Future Stars 2007": Pioneer High School. *January 12, 13, & 20 (different programs).* Max Kumangai-McGee directs PHS students in 4 different variety shows modeled on Fox TV's talent search show *American Idol*. Tonight: **"Motown"** (7 p.m.) and **"I Love the 80s"** (9:30 p.m.). The audience response determines the winners in each of the 4 categories, who compete in the January 20 finale (see listing). Last year over 1,000 people attended this popular show. *Note:* No one without student ID from area high schools and colleges admitted to the 9:30 p.m. shows. *7 & 9:30 p.m., PHS Little Theater, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Tickets $5 on Jan. 12 & 13, $10 (students, seniors, & teachers, $7) on Jan. 20 at the door only. 994–2191.*

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to discuss ***The Omnivore's Dilemma,*** Michael Pollan's acclaimed study of the destructiveness of the way food is grown by modern agribusiness. *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. *January 12, 13, 15, 19 & 29.* This Ann Arbor-based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules, September–March, against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18–21), American college teams, and comparable European national teams. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Traverse City North Stars** of the North American Hockey League. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $12 (students & children, $6). 327–9251.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. NMU. *January 12 & 13. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

Toledo Symphony Orchestra: Saline Community Education. The Toledo Symphony performs a program TBA. Also, performances by the Saline High School orchestras and choirs, who join forces with the TSO for the finale. *7:30 p.m., Ewing Performing Arts Center, SHS, 1300 Campus Parkway. Tickets $10 in advance and at the door. 429–8020.*

★**"La Tragedie de Carmen": U-M School of Music Opera Workshop.** See 11 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Astronomy Department.** *January 12 & 26.* All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. *8–10 p.m., fifth floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the fifth floor). Free. 764–3440.*

★**Ballroom Dancing: Michigan Union Arts and Programs.** *January 12 & 26.* Waltz and rumba (January 12) and fox-trot and cha-cha (January 26) dancing to recorded music. No partner necessary. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *9:30 p.m., Michigan League Underground. Free. 763–3202.*

2nd Friday Advanced English Dance. English country dancing for experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. Shirley Harden, Ray Bantle, and Arlene Kindel call to music by Childgrove. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 665–7704.*

Peter Mayer: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Earthy, intimate originals by this Minnesota singer-songwriter whose songs are known for their down-home wisdom on a range of topics from Buddha and Jesus to Isaac Newton and Harley-Davidsons. Mayer is also known for his warm, resonant baritone and fluid, rhythmically supple guitar playing. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662–4536, 665–8558.*

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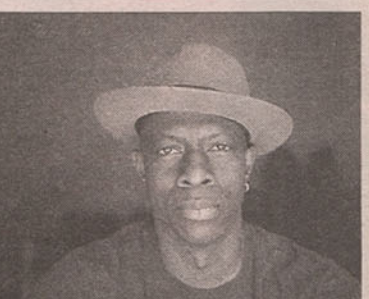

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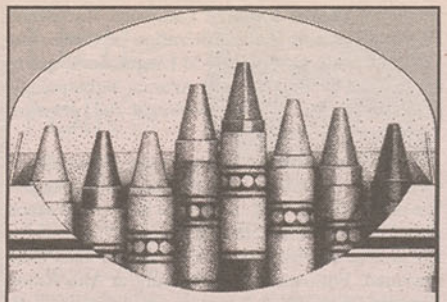

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Robert Spalding Newcomb: Kerrytown Concert House. This local guitarist and sitarist performs tranquil jazz, rock, folk, classical, and raga-influenced improvisations on both instruments, sometimes tweaking the sound with coins and paper clips. "Newcomb creates musical koans, floating gently through the air," says *Current* music critic Mark Ziemba. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Takacs Quartet: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 77.* Regarded as the world's foremost interpreter of Bartok and still at the peak of its powers, Takacs is a 25-year-old quartet of 1 British, 1 American, and 2 Hungarian "string alchemists," including new violist Geraldine Walther. The group's playing is known for its warmth, eloquence, and discipline, along with the ease with which it masters demanding pieces. Tonight's program: Brahms's chiaroscuric Quartet in A Minor, Mozart's melancholy Quartet in D Minor, and Beethoven's tender, lyrical Quartet no. 15. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $20–$44 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

Madcat and Kane: The Ark. Blues, R&B, folk, & jazz by the nationally acclaimed local duo of world-class harmonica wizard Peter Madcat Ruth and ace fingerstyle blues guitarist Shari Kane. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Bright Sheng's 'Silver River': University Musical Society. *January 12 & 13.* Ong Keng Sen conducts celebrated MacArthur "genius" grant-winning U-M music professor Sheng and Tony-winning David Henry Hwang's critically acclaimed music theater work which combines elements of Chinese and Western opera, contemporary dance, Western and Eastern music styles, and contemporary set design. Based on Chinese myth, it's the story of a star-weaving sky goddess who falls in love with a cowherd on Earth, plunging the cosmic order into chaos. Parted by the Jade Emperor, the celestial and earthly lovers are allowed to meet only once a year in the Silver River (Milky Way). "There is an earthy, ethnic quality to the sounds that Sheng elicits," says *New York Times* music critic Anthony Tommassini. "Yet when the mood calls for it, as in the courtship scenes, the subtle beauty of Sheng's music is wistfully lyrical, suffused with wayward modal harmonies that seem at once ancient and fresh." *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18–$40 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Sweet Charity": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Citizen Improv": Improv Inferno. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

Allyn Ball: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). *January 12–25.* A schoolteacher's sordid relationship with a student is bitingly observed in a close friend's diary. Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

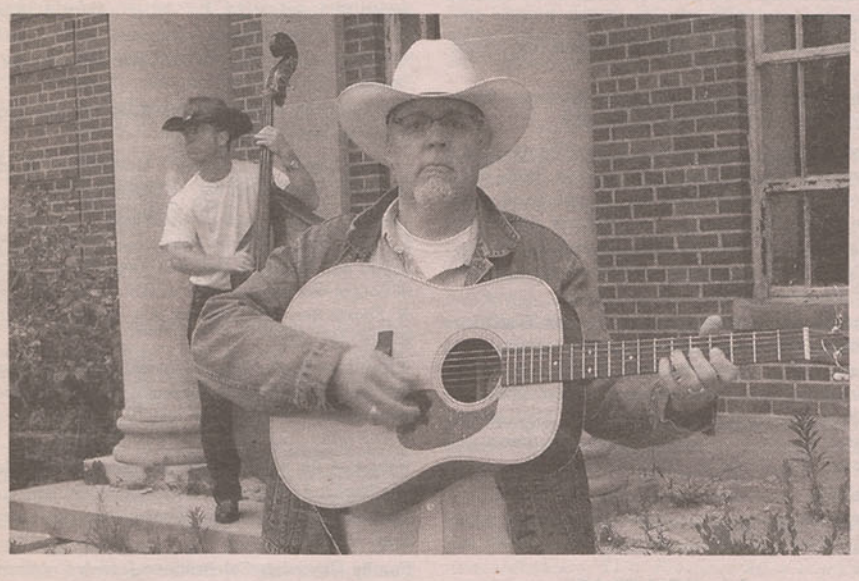
13 SATURDAY

★Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum. All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at an Arb location TBA. Free. 998–9540.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *January 13 & 14.* Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Jan. 13) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Jan. 14), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (810) 227–1637.*

"The Sky Tonight"/"Blown Away: Wild World of Weather": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday beginning January 13. The Sky Tonight* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. *Blown Away* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about the sun's effect on weather conditions that includes some spectacular extreme weather footage. Followed by a brief star talk. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30,*

country music



Hoodang
Storytelling skill

The Ann Arbor roots-country band Hoodang grew from a collaboration between singer-guitarist David Rossiter and bassist Rich Rickman. Rossiter is now backed by multi-instrumentalists Drew Howard and John Latini and drummer Pat Bill, stalwarts of a local alt-country scene that over the last few years has grown to a point where national promoters are going to start paying attention. But Rossiter's singing and songwriting are at Hoodang's center. If you like the parade of ornery hard-luck characters who have wound their way through Steve Earle's albums, or the tough, edgy romantic characterizations of the grassroots Ontario iconoclast Fred Eaglesmith, be aware that there's a local figure who can play in their league. And he's got a dry leather strap of a voice to go with his songs.

Rossiter is a storyteller first and foremost. He has a few honky-tonk tunes like the uptempo-swing "Jump Start My Heart," but even these seem to have a tale of woe lurking in the background ("Feel like I'm ready for the scrap heap/Ain't nothin' much to salvage anyway"). More often he sketches an individual in quite a bit of detail, often inhabiting the subject in first person. "Memory Lapse" is about a prisoner who has committed a terrible crime while so drunk that "even if you'd asked me, I couldn't've told you my name," and:

It makes my blood run cold
As the Red River in December
To think I'm servin' time
For a crime I don't remember.

As the song goes on, instrumental solos let the detail sink in for the listener—and then bits and pieces of the crime begin to come back to the man. Rossiter has a rare knack for the key to a good murder ballad: it has to keep you transfixed by the crime but also a bit off balance by the unfolding of events.

Several of Rossiter's songs adopt the device of sketching a simple scene and then filling in its backstory in a long series of verses. His music has the quality of an ice sculpture in which a hidden idea has been discovered by hacking away its covering—but it's also full of striking individual images. Probably my favorite Hoodang song is the very compact "Roadhouse Shuffle." That song tells of a dying war veteran and alcoholic barroom musician who's "been doin' the roadhouse shuffle twenty years or more. . . . Each year brought death closer in, and soon it would be his time." In four breathtaking stanzas, Rossiter takes the man from the battlefield and the loss of his wife to redemption in the form of a foundling he hears crying outside a bar—"Jordan's River in a baby's tears, to wash away his sin."

Hoodang's eponymously titled debut album came out a couple of years ago, and those of us who follow this kind of songwriting have been awaiting more material. Some of it will be ready for unveiling on Tuesday, January 9, at the Ark, where Hoodang's concert will be recorded for a new live CD. I heard Rossiter try out some new songs at Beaner's coffeehouse last fall, and I can report that he's exploring new songwriting forms, including the straight historical song (he has a great one about Michigan's James Jesse Strang, self-proclaimed king of Beaver Island in the nineteenth century), gothic horror, and even a country barroom duet that's pretty romantic.

—James M. Manheim

1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $3.75. 764–0478.

★**"Depression and Anxiety in Adolescents and Adults with Autism and Asperger Syndrome": U-M Depression Center.** Talk by U-M Autism and Communication Disorders Center director Catherine Lord. *11:45 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Great Lakes Room, Palmer Commons, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 936–4400.*

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. *January 13 & 27.* Docent-guided tours, about 30 minutes long, of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 764–3482.*

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Every Saturday & Sunday beginning January 13.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members and infants free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

"Back from the Brink of Extinction": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation). Leslie Science Center staff display a live bald eagle and peregrine falcon and discuss the work that's been done locally and nationally to help these and other large birds reverse their slide into extinction. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. *1–3 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6 per person. Preregistration required. 997–1553.*

★**"Inside the Award-Winning Artrain USA": Ann Arbor District Library.** Artrain president Debra Polich discusses this Ann Arbor–based traveling museum, which won the 2006 National Award for Museum and Library Service. She also introduces its current exhibit, *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture* (see Galleries & review, p. 000). *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Another Ann Arbor": Barnes & Noble.** Ann Arborites Lola Jones, the vice-president of the African American Museum of Washtenaw County, and Carol Gibson, an independent TV producer who has worked for *Oprah*, discuss their new book about the history of the Ann Arbor area black community. Signing. *Note:* Jones and Gibson discuss their book at other locations on January 14, 15, & 24 (see listings). *2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"Animal Favorites": Waterloo Natural History Association. Naturalist Paul McCormack discusses some of his favorite animals and explains the adaptations that help them survive. *2:30–3:30 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (family, $5; WNHA members, free). Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

Sunday Social: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to a variety of styles to prerecorded music. All levels welcome; no partner necessary. Also, a **vintage clothing swap & sale** (January 13, 10–4 p.m., & January 14, 1:30–4 p.m.). *2:30–4 p.m. Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $5. 769–0041.*

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *January 13 & 20.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *5 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

Martin Luther King Holiday Dinner Ball: National Association of Negro Businesses and Professional Women in Cooperation. Cocktails followed by dinner (7 p.m.) and dancing (9 p.m.) to live music TBA. Dressy attire. Proceeds benefit a NBPW scholarship fund and community service projects. *6 p.m.–1 a.m., Four Points Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk. Tickets $50 in advance only. 975–9399.*

"Late New Year's Party": Ann Arbor Ski Club. This glamorous party features a lavish roast beef or chicken dinner and dancing to live music TBA. Champagne toast. Cash bar. Formal dress. *6:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m., Dexter Knights of Columbus, 8265 Dexter-Chelsea Road, Dexter. $44 (members, $38). 439–1102.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 12 Friday. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Traverse City North Stars** of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

The Setup: Neutral Zone. Bouncy, sunny lyrical pop by this local quartet that includes 3 members of the disbanded Ninjas. Opening act is local high school band **HMS Epidemic.** *7 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St. $7 (high school ID, $5). 214–9995.*

"Future Stars 2007": Pioneer High School. See 12 Friday. Tonight: **"Movie Music Madness"** (7 p.m.) and **"Party On"** (9:30 p.m.). 7 & 9:30 p.m.

"Food, Food Policy, & Farming": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. *January 13, 20, & 27.* First 3 in a series of 6 educational film programs, followed by discussion and refreshments. Tonight's film: ***An Introduction to the Work of Dr. Weston A. Price and the Nourishing Traditions Diet.*** Also this month: ***The Global Banquet*** and ***Codex and Nutricide*** (January 20) and ***The Fourfold Approach to Cancer*** (January 27). *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Donation. Wheelchair-accessible. 662–9355.*

★**U-M Life Sciences Orchestra.** Clinton Smith conducts this ensemble of musicians from the U-M medical and science staff as it kicks off its 7th season with Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Russian Easter Overture*, based on music from the Russian Orthodox Church. Also, Saint-Saens's Symphony no. 3, one of the most important French symphonic works, and Mozart's lithe Piano Concerto no. 23. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free; donations accepted. 936–ARTS.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $4. 822–2120.*

"Emerald Nights": Leim Irish Dance. Irish dancing by this U-M student ensemble. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. $8 (students & kids 12 & under, $5).*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

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13 SATURDAY *continued*

"Sweet Charity": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 11 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Bright Sheng's 'Silver River': University Musical Society. See 12 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 6 Saturday. 8–9:30 p.m.

Allyn Ball: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls contras to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear flat, smooth-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. *8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, across from Webster Church on Webster Church Rd. (1 mile south of North Territorial), Dexter. $8. 996–8359.*

2nd Saturday Swing Dance: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to recorded jump blues, swing, and big-band music. All welcome; no partner necessary. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by lessons ($5). *8:30–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $5 (dance with lesson, $7). 213–0537.*

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

14 SUNDAY

"Introduction to Meditation": Maitreya Buddhist Center. *January 14 & 21.* Talks by Buddhist monk Gen Kelsang Khedrub, the resident teacher of the Vajrayana Buddhist Center in Chicago. *10–11:15 a.m., 116 E. Washington, suite 220. $10 suggested donation. (248) 444–4633.*

★**Sunday Schmooze: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited for socializing and discussion of **"Palestinian and Israeli Hip-Hop: The Cultural Terrain of Conflict."** Coffee, snack. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

★**"The Value of Sexuality Education: Issues for the 21st Century": First Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Talk by teachers and students of various sex education programs. *12:45 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 665–6158.*

"Inside Outside Upside Down": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck presents a hands-on program to learn why animals look the way they do. *2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 426–8211.*

★**"Where I Grow My Orchids": Ann Arbor Orchid Society.** Five club members show pictures of and discuss their growing areas. Also, silent auction and raffle of orchids, and show and tell of members' plants. *2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 426–2704, 663–0756.*

★**Steve Lehto: Liberty Borders.** This Farmington Hills attorney discusses ***Death's Door: The Truth Behind Michigan's Largest Mass Murder,*** his book about a fatal 1913 stampede of people fleeing what they thought was a burning building. Also, signing. *2 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 677–6948.*

★**24th Annual Unity March and Rededication: Second Baptist Church.** All invited to join a march from the Courthouse to the Second Baptist Church on Red Oak for a memorial service (4 p.m.) honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Music by the Second Baptist Choir; remarks by Bethel AME pastor Joseph Cousin. Refreshments. Shuttle available back downtown from the church. *2 p.m., meet at Washtenaw County Courthouse, Main at Huron. Free. 663–9369.*

★**"Healing with Hands: Miracles, Inspiration, and Science": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Registered nurse Sharon Baker discusses her new book. Signing. *2 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Another Ann Arbor": Ann Arbor District Library "Sunday Edition."** Ann Arborites **Lola Jones** and **Carol Gibson** discuss their new book about the history of the Ann Arbor area black community (see 13 Saturday). Signing. Copies of the book available for purchase. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 17. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

"Sweet Charity": Ann Arbor Civic Theater. See 11 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**"La Tragedie de Carmen": U-M School of Music Opera Workshop.** See 11 Thursday. 3 p.m.

"Boogie Woogie and Stride Piano": Kerrytown Concert House. Veteran Detroit pianists **Mike Przybylski** and **Matthew Ball** join forces for a program of boogie-woogie and stride works. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

★**Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***Daniel and Jim: An Unfinished Memoir,*** Daniel Prospero's account of finding love at age 70. *4:30–6:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 663–0036.*

★**Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss 2 murder mysteries TBA. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

Family Havdalah Celebration: Jewish Community Center. A family-oriented Havdalah service celebrating the closing of Shabbat (the Sabbath), followed by a pizza dinner, arts & craft activities, stories, and songs. *5 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $7 (kids 2 & under, free). 971–0990.*

★**"Theology on Tap": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Outreach Committee.** All invited to join an informal discussion of social, theological, and political issues. Tonight: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice Disarmament Working Group members lead a discussion on **"Nuclear Weapons: Security or Idolatry?"** Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 116 E. Washington. Free. 213–5378.*

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. See 7 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Rap It Up": Improv Inferno. See 7 Sunday. 9:30 p.m.

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. See 7 Sunday. 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

15 MONDAY

★**"MLK Symposium Memorial Lecture": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Lecture by former NAACP president and Maryland congressman **Kweisi Mfume.** Other symposium events are presented today and January 8–12, 16–20, 22, 24, 25, & 31 (see listings). *10 a.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 936–1055.*

★**"Building the Beloved (Healthy) Community": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Talk by Tony Brown, the host of *Tony Brown's Journal,* PBS's longest-running series, and of the radio call-in show *Tony Brown. 11:45 a.m., U-M Hospital Towsley Center Auditorium, 710 S. Forest. Free. 764–3212.*

★**"March to Undo Proposal 2": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** March in a loop from South Forest down South University to State Street and back across the Diag. Followed at 1 p.m. in the Michigan Union Anderson Room by a conference to discuss Proposal 2. *Noon, South Forest at South University. Free. (313) 671–3422.*

★**"Diversity Day": Jewish Community Center.** Kids in grades K–5 invited for exercises and games designed to teach them about issues associated with racial and ethnic diversity and the stigma attached to people living with physical disabilities and how to respond to these challenges. *12:45–3:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"Inside Out: Reentry from Prison into the Community": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Panel discussion with Michigan Prisoners Reentry Initiative coordinator Mary King and others TBA. *1 p.m., 126 East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 764–3212.*

★**"Building the Beloved Community by Acknowledging and Preserving Our Past": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** A panel of Center for Afroamerican and African Studies faculty members and African American Cultural and Historical Museum staff members discuss the local Underground Railroad. *1 p.m., 126 East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 764–3212.*

★"Ann Arbor's Black Historical Legacy": U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies. Panel discussion with speakers TBA from the CAAS and Ann Arbor communities. *1 p.m., 4701 Haven Hall, 505 S. State. Free. 764–5518.*

"The People and Their Sky: African and African American Sky Tales": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Audiovisual presentation of 5 African sky myths, narrated by members of the Detroit Storytellers Association and illustrated by U-M art students. Also, a brief look at the current night sky. *1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. $3.75. 764–0478.*

★"Economic Justice in the Beloved Community: Where Do We Go from Here?": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Talk by economist and *USA Today* columnist **Julianne Malveaux.** *1:30 p.m., Mendelssohn Theater. Free. 764–3212.*

★"The Role of Health and Fitness in Building Better Communities": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Panel discussion by health professionals TBA. *2 p.m., 3735 Kinesiology, 401 Washtenaw. Free. (248) 535–3566.*

★"Communities at Risk": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Panel discussion with U-M National Center for Institutional Diversity director Phil Bowman, Ohio State University sociology professor Ruth Peterson, U-M Afroamerican and African studies professor Alford Young Jr., and U-M social work professor Sean Joe. *3:30–5 p.m., 6050 ISR, 426 Thompson. Free. 764–8364.*

★"Building the Beloved Food Community": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Panel discussion with representatives from Zingerman's Creamery, Calder Dairy, and the Community Farm of Ann Arbor. Local food samples. *4 p.m., SSWB McGregor Commons, 1080 South University. Free. 763–9534.*

★"Environmental Justice: Civil Rights for the 21st Century": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Talk by Sustainable South Bronx director Majora Carter. *5 p.m., 1040 Dana, 440 Church. Free. 763–9534.*

★Avis Farms Toastmasters. *January 15 & 29.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *5:15–7 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room C, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: $20 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $27). For information, call Adrienne at 332–1200.*

★Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 426–3903.*

"French Olive Oils and Vinegars": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff member Jaime Salm discusses and offers taste samples of a variety of French olive oils and vinegars, from buttery Maussane to austere Alziari oils and from classic to newly discovered vinegars. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $20. Reservations required. 663–3354.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 12 Friday. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Mahoning Valley** (Boardman, Ohio) of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

★"Another Ann Arbor": Arborland Borders. Ann Arborites **Lola Jones** and **Carol Gibson** discuss their new book about the history of the Ann Arbor area black community (see 13 Saturday). Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★Sharon Que: Ann Arbor Women Artists. This sculptor discusses her works, which combine metal, stone, wood, glass, and other media. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center (enter through the back door). Free. 483–1897.*

★"Linnaeus's Sweden: The Man and His Land": Michigan Botanical Club. Slide-illustrated talk by Sarah Nooden. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass and table service). *7:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 663–5667.*

"Look Out for Hope: Benefit Concert for the Homeless": Ann Arbor Vineyard Church. Headliner is **The Ragbirds,** an inventive local country-rock band, fronted by singer-songwriter Erin Zindle, whose music mixes in elements of world music, groove rock, and edgy pop. The band uses a diverse mix of instruments, including violin, mandolin, banjo, accordion, acoustic guitar, and percussion elements from around the world, as well as the old-fashioned drumkit. Opening act is **Blueshouse/313,** a new local blues trio led by veteran English singer-guitarist Mike Brooks. With bassist Bill Lewis and drummer Billy Adams. Proceeds go to the church's homeless outreach program. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Vineyard Church & annarborvineyard.org/tickets and at the door. 477–9135, ext. 111.*

FILMS

Melange Subterranean Bistro. "Monday Night Movie & Dinner." See 8 Monday. Tonight: ***Les Diaboliques*** (Henri-Georges Clouzot, 1955) is a classic chiller about two women who begin to suspect that their murder plot has gone awry. Simone Signoret, Vera Clouzot. French, subtitles. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Notes on a Scandal"** (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

16 TUESDAY

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Tuesday beginning January 16.* Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered (beginning the week of January 16) at the Malletts Creek (Wednesdays, 10–10:30 a.m.), Pittsfield (Thursdays, 7–7:30 p.m., and Fridays, 10–10:30 a.m.), and Northeast (Thursdays, 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★"Advanced E-Mail": Ann Arbor District Library. Hands-on introduction to advanced e-mail features, including an address book, options and filters, sending an attachment, and more. *10 a.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate shopping center, & 1 p.m., Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★"Environmental Alert! Animal Factory Feed Farms and the Destruction of Local Family-Owned Farms and Home Owners' Property": Good Thyme Garden Club. Screening of this Michigan Sierra Club-produced video. Also, a group discussion of green cuisine and current legislation pertaining to factory farms. *10 a.m., Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–5001.*

Distinguished Lecture Series: U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Fifth in a series of 9 monthly lectures by different U-M scholars. Open to all age 55 & older. Today: U-M history professor emeritus Tom Collier discusses **"President Roosevelt and the Road to War: Force and Diplomacy in U.S. Foreign Policy, 1937–1941."** Other topics in this extremely varied series range from Darwinian medicine to global warming. *10–11:30 a.m., Best Western Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $50 (members, $35) for the 9-lecture series, $25 (members, $10) per lecture. Memberships are $15 a year. 998–9351.*

★"Regrowing Our Cities": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Talk by Sustainable South Bronx director Majora Carter. *11:30 a.m., 4701 Haven Hall, 505 S. State. Free. 764–5517.*

★Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies. *Every Tuesday beginning January 16.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Today: Yale University Chinese literature professor Kang-I Sun Chang discusses **"Jin Tianhe and the Suzhou Tradition of Writing."** Also this month: U-M history professor Par Cassel discusses **"Getting Away with Manslaughter: The Vagaries of Justice in Maritime Courts in Late 19th-Century China and Japan"** (January 23), and U-M business strategy professor Minyuan Zhao discusses **"Driving Innovation in China: Intellectual Property Rights, Foreign Competition, and the Visible Hand of the State"** (January 30). *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★"A Kiss to This Land": Temple Beth Emeth. Screening of Daniel Goldberg's 1995 documentary about Jews, turned away from the U.S. by immigration quotas, who emigrated in the 20s to Mexico and embraced its language and culture. Spanish, subtitles. Coffee and noshes. Followed by discussion. *1–3 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Rd. Free. 665–4744.*

★"Justice for All": EMU MLK Celebration. Talk by Minnesota Supreme Court justice **Alan Page,** an NFL Hall of Famer who starred with the Minnesota Vikings in the 70s. The program begins with a spoken-word collaboration by EMU and area elementary school students and concludes with a performance by the EMU CloseUp Theater Troupe of its skit "Justice—Speak Up!" *3 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–3179.*

★"Beloved": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. U-M English professor Meg Sweeney leads a discussion of Morrison's novel about the dehumanizing effects of slavery. *5–6 p.m., 1334 U-M School of Nursing, 400 N. Ingalls. Free. 936–1615.*

"Fitness": American Business Women's Association Maia Chapter. Talk by Gym Giovino owner Ann-Margaret Giovino. The program begins with networking and dinner. *6 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050*

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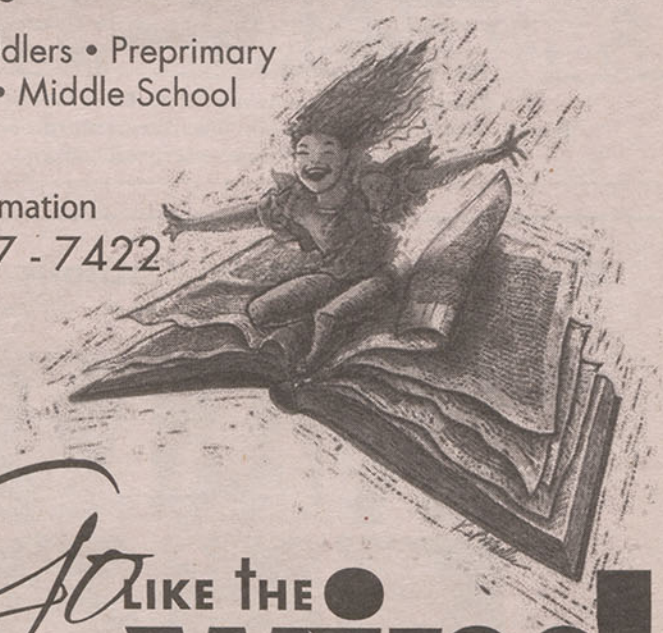

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16 TUESDAY *continued*

Jackson Rd. $15. Preregistration required. 429–8585.

"African American Foodways": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a dinner showcasing recipes taken from 2 early African American cookbooks, *What Mrs. Fisher Knows about Old Southern Cooking,* an 1881 cookbook dictated by the illiterate ex-slave Abby Fisher, and *Domestic Cook Book,* an 1856 cookbook written by Melinda Russel, a free woman from Virginia who eventually settled in Michigan. The menu includes sweet watermelon rind pickle and other appetizers, oyster gumbo, a jumberlie (Creole chicken) or fricasseed catfish entree, cheese pudding, stewed okra and corn, Maryland beaten breads, and cream apple pie, coconut pie, or blueberry jelly for dessert. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. $39 ($58 includes drinks). Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★**"Review of the National Truck Crash Study": Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the Truck Historical Society.** Talk by a club member TBA. Food concessions. *7 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 434–6883.*

SpiritSisters Women's Circle. All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Bring divination tools, if you like. *7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. $3. 741–0478.*

★**"Depression": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local chiropractor Shannon Dicks. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★**"Jazz Resistance Through Song": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Talk by Penny von Eschen, author of *Satchmo Blows Up the World. 7 p.m., Michigan League room TBA. Free. 936–0225.*

★**Laura Kasischke: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This nationally acclaimed local poet and novelist, a U-M Residential College creative writing instructor, reads from her new novel ***Be Mine,*** an erotic thriller about a middle-aged married woman that explores how little people know themselves and those they live with and what's at risk when social identities are swept away by passion. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** Readings by **Doug Smith, Sandra Xenakis,** and other contributors to *In Drought Time,* an anthology of works by local poets and graphic artists exploring small-town and rural life. Followed by open-mike readings for poets and other creative writers. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

★**"Creating Wealth Globally, Locally, and Culturally: Three Michigan Women's Success Stories": Ann Arbor University Women.** Talks by Ebinger Manufacturing Co. president Janny Lu and Ann Arbor Diet Center franchise owner Denise Williams. *7:30 p.m., Women's City Club auditorium, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 662–3279.*

★**"Mountaintop Removal: The Hidden Destruction of the Appalachian Mountains": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Talk by Dave Cooper, a Lexington, Kentucky, activist who's been on the road since last September speaking against coal mining by stripping away the mountaintop. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–0823.*

★**"Dawn Farm Education Series": Dawn Farm.** *January 16, 23, & 30.* Dawn Farm therapist Calvin Whitehead discusses **"Addiction and the Whole Person."** Also this month: Dawn Farm family therapist Jennifer Lowrance on **"Chemical Dependency and the Family"** (January 23) and Vince Swain on **"The Cultures of Addiction and Recovery"** (January 30). Refreshments, literature. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 973–7892.*

★**"Come Sunday": EMU Music Department.** Phoenix Ensemble violinist **Gabriel Bolkosky** and DSO trombonist **Randall Hawes** join EMU music faculty pianist **Kathryn Goodson** for a program of chamber works by Ives, Ellington, and Piazzolla. *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

17 WEDNESDAY

"The Morning Edition": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. This popular monthly program features a buffet breakfast and a series of 5-minute updates from local business and community leaders. Hosted by Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins. Speakers: Swisher Commercial real estate treasurer **Bart Wise,** Amishtables.com vice-president **John Paul Narowski,** Ann Arbor mayor **John Hieftje,** Nicola's books owner **Nicola Rooney,** and others TBA. Video replays posted at annarborchamber.org. *7–8:45 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $25 (members, $15). Preregistration requested. 214–0104.*

★**"Koryo Saram": U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies.** Screening of U-M art professor David Chung's documentary about the Korean diaspora in Kazakhstan. Followed by a discussion with director Chung, and the film's producer, Meredith Jung-En Woo, a U-M political science professor. *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

★**"Defending the Poor, Prisoners, and People of Color: The Work of the Equal Justice Initiative": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Talk by Equal Justice Initiative (Montgomery, Alabama) director Bryan Stevenson. *2 p.m., 250 Hutchins Hall, 625 S. State. Free. 936–0776.*

★**Matthew Shlian: Washtenaw Community College GalleryOne.** All invited to watch this paper artist (see Galleries) create from scratch one of his paper sculptures based on molecular forms. *3–4 p.m., 375 Liberal Arts Bldg., Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 477–8512.*

★**"Separate Is Still Unequal: Reflections from an Advocacy Trip to Washington. D.C.": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Talks by some of the 30 U-M students who marched on Washington as the Supreme Court was hearing 2 cases that addressed racial integration in public schools. *6 p.m., SSWB McGregor Commons, 1080 South University. Free. 936–0225.*

★**"Innovation, Purpose, Courage, and You": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** University of North Carolina microbiology professor Oveta Fuller discusses her work in AIDS education in Africa. *6–7:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 998–9381.*

★**"Mastering the Challenges of Learning and Attention Difficulties": U-M Center for the Child and the Family.** Talks by Hebrew Day School language teacher Kristen Chapman and UCCF intern Michelle Stern. *7–8:30 p.m., UCCF, 530 Church St. Free. 764–9466.*

★**"Nourishing Herbs": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.*

★**"Recent Success Stories in Great Lakes Lighthouse Preservation": Ann Arbor District Library.** Great Lakes lighthouse historian and photographer **Wayne Sapulski** discusses his recent book. Signing. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Vievee Francis: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Hamtramck poet reads from ***Blue Tail Fly,*** her debut collection, which features poems that give voice to "outsiders"—from soldiers and common folk to leading political figures—who play the role of cultural irritant, or "blue-tail fly," in the two decades leading up to the Civil War. A former Ann Arbor Poetry Slam Grand Slam winner, Francis is a dynamic performer with an astounding array of vocal cadences. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** See 10 Wednesday. Tonight: fiction readings by U-M creative writing grad student **Greg Schutz** and poetry reading by U-M creative writing grad student **Sara Dimaggio.** 7–9:30 p.m.

★**"Solar Power": Pittsfield Union Grange.** Talk by local solar power advocate Dave Strenski, who helped design the Ypsilanti Food Co-op solar panel system. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck (bring a dish to pass; table service provided). *7:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free. 769–1052.*

★**"Birds and Birdsong in Western Music": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** U-M musicology professor Stefano Mengozzi presents a slide-illustrated talk on the use of birdsong in music, from early folk music to Mozart's starling, Beethoven's cuckoo, and Respighi's use of recorded birdsong in *The Pines of Rome. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–3275*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Penn State. *8 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

EMU produces The Tempest, *Shakespeare's visionary play set on a magical island, Jan. 25–27.*

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

18 THURSDAY

★"Advanced Microsoft Word": Ann Arbor District Library. *January 18 & 19.* A 2-part hands-on introduction to such advanced features of this popular word-processing program as tabs, symbols, tables, and mail merge. *10 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard), & 1 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★"A New Look at Some Old Favorites": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Local piano teachers put their spins on warhorses from the student repertoire. *10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 994–9198.*

"Owl's Winter": Wild Swan Theater. *January 18–20.* This award-winning local children's theater presents its adaptation of Arnold Lobel's *Owl at Home*. Owl encounters strange bumps at the foot of his bed, is awakened by a noisy cricket, and wonders why the moon seems to follow him when he's out for a stroll. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available for blind audience members by prearrangement. Live original flute music by Lisa Warren. Cast: Hilary Cohen, Sandy Ryder. *10:30 a.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $10 (children, $8) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★"Share a Story": Briarwood Mall. A storyteller TBA reads a story TBA. Also, coloring and a snack. *11 a.m., Briarwood children's play area. Free. 769–9610.*

★Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop. *January 18 & 25.* Shaman Drum staff read some picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★"Cookie Creations": International Neighbors. All area women invited to decorate cookies. Materials provided. International Neighbors is a 48-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers; transportation can be arranged. Refreshments; attendees may bring a snack from their tradition to share. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 429–7445.*

★Books and Coffee: Concordia University. All invited to join Concordia history professor Juliana Frost to discuss John Williams's ***Unbending Gender: Why Family and Work Conflict and What to Do about It.*** Coffee. *4 p.m., Concordia University Riverside Conference Room, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–4612.*

★Sean Norton and Patrick O'Keeffe: U-M English Department. Poetry reading by U-M creative writing grad Norton and fiction reading by U-M creative writing lecturer O'Keeffe. Norton's debut poetry collection, *Bad with Faces,* features contemplative, drily humorous excavations of the unexpected facets of the ordinary that the poet Alice Fulton calls "spiritual and gorgeous [and] infused with a wry wit that in no ways undermines its high seriousness." O'Keeffe's critically acclaimed first book, ***The Hill Road,*** is a collection of 4 linked novellas exploring the precarious balance of family intimacies played out in the cloistered world of Irish farm country. Signing, refreshments. *5 p.m., Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 615–3710.*

★"Liminal Networks": U-M School of Art and Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series. Talk by Chicago-based multimedia artist Anne Wilson, whose projects include *hairinquiry,* an interactive website exploring the theme of hair, and static installations and video films of animated installations that involve Claymation-esque moving pins, threads, and abstract shapes. *5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 936–2082.*

★"Why Are You in My Space? A Conversation about Race, New Urbanism, and Public Housing": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Panel discussion on new public housing developments built with HOPE VI government funding that emphasize innovative, homey styles unlike the stereotypical public-housing high-rise. *6 p.m., Art & Architecture Auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. (502) 240–9272.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. MSU. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★"Choosing the Right Preschool for Your Child": Mothers and More. Talk by First Steps Washtenaw representative SuFen Lin. *7–9 p.m., Gladwin Meeting Place, 4105 W. Liberty. Free. 327–4901.*

★"Spectacular Spain": Of Global Interest. Local adventure tour owner Heather O'Neal screens a travel video featuring highlights of the Iberian Peninsula and the Las Fallas Festival in Valencia. *7 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free. 369–3107.*

★Ann Arbor Society for Origami. All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

★"Men's Health: Aging Well." Talk by local holistic health care practitioner Malcolm Sickels. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Market Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations requested. 975–4500.*

"Relax, Breathe, & Meditate": Maitreya Buddhist Center. *January 18 & 25.* Talks by Buddhist monk Gen Kelsang Khedrub, the resident teacher of the Vajrayana Buddhist Center in Chicago. The weekly program also includes a guided meditation and discussion. This week's topic: **"Taking a Look at Our Mind."** Also this month: **"What Is Meditation?"** (January 25). *7–8:30 p.m., 116 E. Washington, suite 220. $10 suggested donation. (248) 444–4633.*

★"Sufi Healing, Meditations, & Whirling": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited to join a program of rumi music, silent meditation, and open whirling. *7:30 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. Free. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

★"The Town of the Pyramid Builders: Giza, Egypt": Michigan Archaeological Society. U-M museum of anthropology curator Richard Redding discusses the excavations at Giza over the last decade. *7:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum Paleontology Classroom, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 995–8806.*

★"Stories of Healing: An Evening of Storytelling": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Salon. Talk by local poet, musician, and bioenergetics practitioner Elizabeth Alberda. Followed by discussion. *7:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757, 665–9160.*

★Third Thursday Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss Geraldine Brooks's ***March,*** a novel based on imagining what Mr. March *of Little Women* was doing during the Civil War. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★"Unsound Mind": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Screening of Marcus DuPree and David Tinsley's documentary about 2 childhood friends who go to college and encounter obstacles that could destroy their friendship. *Evening time TBA, Michigan Theater. Free. 668–8397.*

"Language Lessons": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thursday through Sunday, January 18–February 25.* David Wolber directs the world premiere of local playwright Joseph Zettel-

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Jan. 1	Germany vs. Sweden	3:30pm
	USA vs. Finland	7:00pm
Jan. 2	Bronze Medal Game	3:30pm
	Gold Medal Game	7:00pm

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maier's comedy about the cross-cultural sparks that fly when a touring Russian ballerina arrives as the guest of a retired American diplomat. Stars Terry Heck, Aphrodite Nikolovski, and R. L. Smith. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (Jan. 18), $20 (Jan. 19. 21, & 25), and $28 (Jan. 20). Jan. 26 opening night tickets: $37 includes reception. After Jan. 26: $25 (Thurs. & Sun.), $30 (Fri., Sat. matinee, & Sun.), and $35 (Sat. eve.). Discounts available for seniors & (during previews) adults under age 30. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Tim O'Rourke: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *January 18–20.* This L.A. comic is an affable but fast-paced observational humorist with a fresh point of view who is best known as Tim the bartender on *The Drew Carey Show.* Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served (all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows). *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"The Catfight": Improv Inferno. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

19 FRIDAY

★**"Creating Campus-Community Partnerships in the Arts": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** A day of talks by multimedia poet and artist Sekou Sundiata (see 20 Saturday listing), Community Arts Network (North Carolina) codirector and arts writer Linda Frye Burnham, and other nationally known artists, along with U-M art faculty. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Michigan League Kalamazoo Room. Free. 936–0225.*

"Owl's Winter": Wild Swan Theater. See 18 Thursday. 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

★**"Parallel History and Diplomacy? Turkey's Position Toward the Kurdish Question in 1925 and from 2003 to 2006": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by University of Kentucky Middle East history and politics professor Robert Olson. *11 a.m.–noon, 2004 Modern Languages, 812 E. Washington. Free. 764–0350.*

20th Anniversary Antiques Show: Saline Area Historical Society. *January 19 & 20.* Juried show and sale of antiques from over 50 dealers from throughout the Midwest, including slot machines, lamps, pottery, furniture, art, tableware, jewelry, and antique dolls. Food available. *11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Jan. 19) & 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Jan. 20), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Admission $3. 429–3164, 944–0713.*

"ConFusion XXXIII: Moonbase ConFusion": Stilyagi Air Corps Annual Convention. *January 19–21.* Up to 1,000 science fiction enthusiasts usually attend this eclectic event, Michigan's largest science fiction convention, which outgrew its Ann Arbor location years ago. *Tonight:* Opening ceremonies include talks by the guests of honor, science fiction and fantasy writer **Elizabeth Moon,** science fiction writer **Howard Waldrop,** physicist **Bill Higgins,** University of Minnesota biology professor **Paul "PZ" Myers,** filk (a science fiction parody genre) musician **Steve Macdonald,** and fan **Mike Glicksohn.** Also, a dance, and a filk music concert. *Saturday:* activities include a writing workshop and a **masquerade contest.** *Sunday*: a writing workshop and other events. Throughout the convention, card, board, and role-playing games, panel discussions, anime screenings, talks, workshops, and kids activities, plus a sale of books, artworks, clothing, and memorabilia. *2 p.m. today continuously through Sunday afternoon, Troy Marriott, 200 W. Big Beaver Rd. (east off I–75 exit 69, north from I–696), Troy. $45 (ages 6–12, $25; 5 & under, free) includes admission to all 3 days. Registration: stilyagi.org/cons/2007/. For information: confusion@stilyagi.org.*

★**"When the World Comes Calling: Bengali Bards Confront Modernity": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Talk by Boston University religion and anthropology professor Frank Korom. *5 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–5261.*

★**"Winter Bike Skills": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce getDowntown Program.** Ann Arbor police officer Kathy Vonk, a certified bike maintenance

classical music

Where's Takács?

The Takács Quartet plays Rackham

If they're the Takács Quartet, where's Takács?

It's like this. When violinists Gabor Takács-Nagy and Károly Schranz, violist Gabor Ormai, and cellist András Fejér were students together at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, they started a string quartet. Because Takács-Nagy was first violinist, they named themselves the Takács Quartet. After a series of international tours and a string of recordings for the Hungarian Hungaroton label and the British Decca label, Takács-Nagy left in 1993, and English violinist Edward Dusinberre took the first violin chair. Then, when Gabor Ormai died in 1995, English violist Roger Tapping took his chair. Although the Takács was now based in London and had two English members, the players kept the by-then-world-renowned name.

After a decade of service and more but quite different recordings for Decca, Tapping left, and American violist Geraldine Walther took his chair. Since 2005, founding members Schranz and Fejér along with Dusinberre and Walther have been based in Boulder, where the Takács is quartet-in-residence at the University of Colorado, and in 2006 they started making records for the British Hyperion label.

And where's Takács? Since 1997, Gabor Takács-Nagy has been professor of string quartet at the Conservatoire Supérieur in Geneva.

Ann Arbor chamber music fans are already familiar with the differences between the all-Hungarian Takács Quartet, the half-English, half-Hungarian Takács Quartet, and the quarter-English, quarter-American, half-Hungarian Takács Quartet. The all-Hungarian incarnation made its UMS debut way back in 1984. The half-Hungarian, half-English version made its debut here fifteen years later and appeared every season after that until last season, when the quarter-English, quarter-American, half-Hungarian version played.

For those who aren't caught up, the sound of the current Takács Quartet can be summed up in three words: *impasto, patina,* and *dollop*. With Schranz and Fejér, the Takács kept its funky Hungarian impasto intact. With Dusinberre, the Takács added a fine patina of English poeticism. And with Walther, it appended a big dollop of American warmth.

In its program on Friday, January 12, at Rackham Auditorium, the Takács will perform three of the finest string quartets ever written in minor keys: Brahms' moody and magnificent Quartet in A Minor, Mozart's baleful and doleful Quartet in D Minor, and Beethoven's transcendent Quartet in A Minor, with its sublime "Heiliger Dankgesang" ("Holy Song of Thanksgiving"). If all goes well, bliss is assured.

—James Leonard

instructor, shows how to dress for winter bicycling, maintain your bike, and handle the treacherous streets. Bring your bike. Snacks provided. Followed by socializing at Ann Arbor Brewing Company. *6–8 p.m., meet at City Hall, N. Fifth Ave. at Huron. Free. 214–0100.*

★**"January Thaw": Heavenly Metal.** All invited to sip a cocktail or two while oohing over hip, fun handmade artworks for sale. *6–9 p.m., Heavenly Metal (inside Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts), 207 E. Ann. Free. 663–4247.*

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Kids ages 2–10 can enjoy dinner, a dip in the pool (age 5 & older only), and games and sports. *6:15–10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. $20 (members, $15). Preregistration required. 661–8012.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 12 Friday. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Marquette Rangers** of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

SpiritSisters Women's Circle. All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Bring divination tools, if you like. *7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. $3. 741–0478.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: prose by **Christina McCarroll** and poetry by **Michelle Brown.** *7 p.m., Michigan League Henderson Room. Free. 615–3710.*

"Breakin' Curfew" Fund-Raiser: Neutral Zone. Benefit preview of this annual spring youth variety show. Performers include the rock bands **On Blitzen** and **Weed.** *7 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St. $7 (high school ID, $5). 214–9995.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Southern Utah. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

Church Organ Series Kickoff Concert: Bethlehem United Church of Christ. Bethlehem Church music director Geoff Stanton and church organist Gail Jennings perform 4-hand and solo organ works, along with some music for organ and synthesizer. The program includes music by Bach, Mozart, Franck, Holst, Sousa, and contemporary American composer Gerre Hancock, as well as the world premiere of a work by Stanton. The premiere concert of the church's newly renovated Casavant pipe organ in its newly remodeled sanctuary. *7:30 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Donation. 665–6149.*

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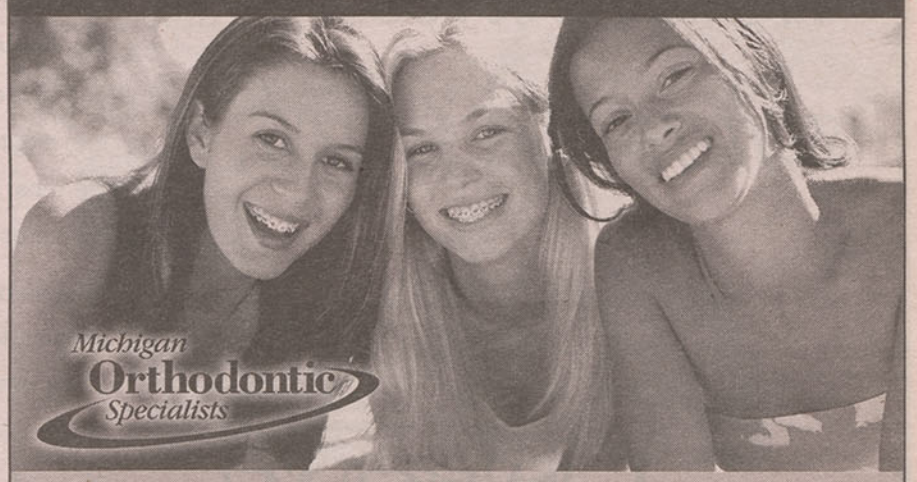

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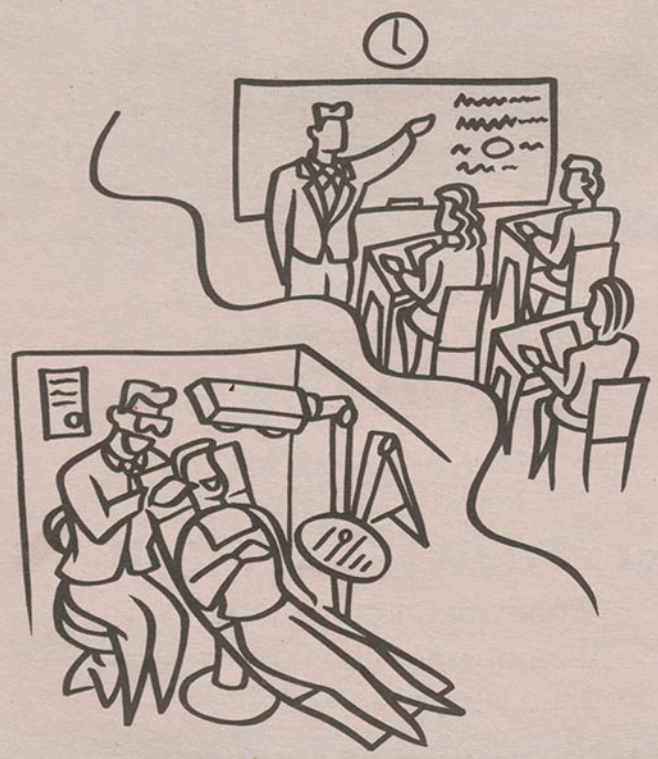

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19 FRIDAY *continued*

The Juggernaut Jug Band: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Traditional jug band music by this acclaimed quartet from Louisville, the birthplace of jug bands. A mixture of classic jazz and blues, jug band music is a swaggering party music, full of high spirits and sexual humor, performed by a modified string band that includes kazoos and other wind instruments, washboard, and, of course, a stoneware jug, an instrument from which a good musician can coax a surprisingly lyrical, hauntingly reverberant sound that's been compared to a bow drawn across the strings of an upright bass. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Urban Transport: Kerrytown Concert House. This Ann Arbor/Detroit-based jazz ensemble performs a program of original compositions shaped by a variety of influences, including bebop, swing, modal jazz, Afro-Cuban, Latin, smooth jazz, and R&B. Members are trombonist Vincent Chandler, saxophonist Dean Moore, bassist Josef Deas, drummer Andrew Wright, and pianist Mark McGruder. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

David Bromberg & the Angel Band: The Ark. A veteran folkie who recently returned to performing after several years of semiretirement, Bromberg is a brilliant entertainer whose style draws on blues, country, early jazz, and even classical music. He's a forceful singer and a first-rate virtuoso on several string instruments, including guitar, mandolin, and violin. His repertoire includes offbeat, often wryly ironic originals and highly personal interpretations of traditional material. "[Bromberg] has such control of his audience that he can, at one moment, hold it in his hand with a tender, touching, yet funny anecdotal song, and then set it romping and stomping with a raucous bit of raunch," says the *New York Times*. Bromberg's first studio recording in 17 years, *Try Me One More Time*, is due out at the end of February. He is backed by his 8-piece band. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $35 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★"Dance Jam": U-M Dance Department. U-M dance and music students join forces to improvise spontaneous performances. *8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Dance Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763–5460.*

"Arcs and Orbits": EMU Dance Program. *January 19–21.* EMU dance students perform works in a variety of idioms, including classical ballet, modern, and jazz dance, by former Martha Graham Dance Company member **Tom Smith,** local choreographers **Wendy DuBois** and **Amy Cova,** and EMU dance professors **Holly Hobbs, Sherry Jerome, Joanna McNamara,** and **Julianne O'Brien Pedersen.** Smith's *Episodes (A Study in Stream of Consciousness)* explores the way thoughts pass through the mind. DuBois's *Concerto* is a setting of the 3rd movement of Gershwin's Concerto in F. Cova's *The Journey,* set to music by the Flaming Lips, is an exploration of life's trials and tribulations. Hobbs's *Rustle,* set to music by avant-garde composer Evan Ziporyn, is inspired by Sophocles' remark that "To him who is in fear everything rustles," and Jerome's *Out of Reach Part II,* set to Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata,* explores the struggle to overcome insecurities and fears. McNamara's *Feathers Suspended,* set to music by U-M composer Michael Daugherty, juxtaposes linear texts with sometimes random movement and images, and Pedersen's terse *Needing Meanwhile* is an exploration of the process of finding one's place, inspired by a poem by Mary Oliver. It is set to recordings by cellist Yo-Yo Ma, bassist Edgar Meyer, and fiddler Mark O'Connor. *8 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets $10 (students with ID, $8) in advance and at the door. 487–1221. 487–2282.*

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Language Lessons": Performance Network Professional Season. See 18 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Citizen Improv": Improv Inferno. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

Tim O'Rourke: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★Open Mike Night: 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. Musical and spoken word performances by U-M and local spoken word artists and musicians TBA. *8:30 p.m., Michigan League Underground. Free. 763–3202.*

Eldar: The Firefly Club. Jazz ensemble led by jazz piano prodigy Eldar Djangirov, a 19-year-old Kyrgyzstan emigre who at age 12 became the youngest performer ever featured on Marian McPartland's NPR show *Piano Jazz*. Compared favorably to everyone from Art Tatum and Chick Corea to Billy Taylor and Dave Brubeck, Djangirov has released 2 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Eldar, Live from the Blue Note*. *9 & 11 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. $20 at the door only. 665–9090.*

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

20 SATURDAY

★**Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 998–9540.*

★**"Who's Still Here? Winter Birds of Independence Lake": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look for common and uncommon winter birds. Hot drinks around a toasty fire afterward. *9–11 a.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. 971–6337.*

Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild. Award-winning New York quilter Carol Taylor discusses techniques for combining color, texture, and design. Followed by member "show and tell," sale of quilting supplies, fabrics, and books, and a workshop on folk art applique. Also, display of quilts to be donated to Safe-House. Raffle. Quilters of all abilities invited. Lunch available. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (members, free). Wheelchair-accessible. 429–0119.*

"Owl's Winter": Wild Swan Theater. See 18 Thursday. 11 a.m.

★**"Manage Weight Holistically": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local naturopath Audrey Blagsvedt. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Purdue. *12:15 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

"Trees in Winter": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike to look for several native tree species and discusses how to identify them in their winter form. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 426–8211.*

★**Mitchell Bartoy, Marcus Sakey, and Sean Chercover: Aunt Agatha's.** These 3 mystery writers discuss their new books. Bartoy's ***The Devil's Only Friend*** is the 2nd in his series of historical mysteries about a Detroit police detective during WW II. U-M grad Sakey's ***The Blade Itself***, his debut novel, is an acclaimed crime thriller about a Chicago construction manager, a reformed burglar, who is blackmailed into joining his childhood partner in crime in a kidnapping. Former PI Chercover's ***Big City, Bad Blood*** is the first in his series about a disillusioned newspaper reporter-turned-PI who takes a job as bodyguard for a witness in an organized crime case. *1:30 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

"Why Does Michigan Look Like a Mitten?": Waterloo Natural History Association. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality geologist Larry Bean discusses the geological forces that have shaped Michigan in the past 2 billion years. *2–3:15 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (family, $5; WNHA members, free). Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★**"Tracks, Scat, and More! Be a Wildlife Detective": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner shows kids how to look for signs of winter animals. Hot drinks after the walk. *2–3:30 p.m., County Farm Park Platt Rd. lot. Free. 971–6337.*

★**"Robots": Barnes & Noble.** Members of the Willow Run High School Robotics Team demonstrate the robots they have made. *2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

Gemini: Michigan Friends Center. The popular Ann Arbor acoustic duo of twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits performs original songs and traditional music from around the globe in a benefit for the Friends Center. Preceded at 1:30 p.m. by a reception. *3 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7448 Clarks Lake Rd. (off Waterloo Rd. west of M-52), Chelsea. Tickets $8 (family, $25) in advance only. 475–1892.*

"Kids Night Out": Ann Arbor Quest Martial Arts. Kids age 6 & up invited to learn some martial arts moves, do arts and crafts, play games, and enjoy a pizza dinner. *5–9 p.m., Quest Martial Arts, 2111 Packard. $20. 332–1800.*

"Kids Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All kids ages 5–10 invited for a pizza dinner, make-your-own sundaes, a screening of *SpongeBob SquarePants*, and SpongeBob craft activities and games. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $22 (members, $18). Reservations required. 971–0990.*

U-M Men's Gymnastics vs. Iowa. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 12 Friday. Today: **Team USA Under-17 vs. Marquette Rangers** of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

"Future Stars 2007 Finale": Pioneer High School. See 12 Friday. Student winners of the earlier competitions square off in a finale. The audience picks the winner. 7:30 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Callers Robin Warner and Peter Baker with live music by the Pittsfield Open Band. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat-soled shoes. Preceded at 3–6 p.m. by a free jam for all musicians. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $8. 665–8863.*

30th Annual Collage Concert: U-M School of Music. U-M music professor emeritus **Gustav Meier,** the longtime director of the University Symphony Orchestra, makes a guest appearance at the 30th-anniversary edition of one of the music school's most popular events, an hour of nonstop music in a wide range of contrasting styles. Classical, jazz, big band, vocal, and pop ensembles and soloists segue rapidly from one idiom to the next. Performers are U-M and guest ensembles that include orchestras, choirs, chamber groups, and soloists. This event fills up quickly. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $15 & $25 (students, $9) in advance and at the door. 763–0594.*

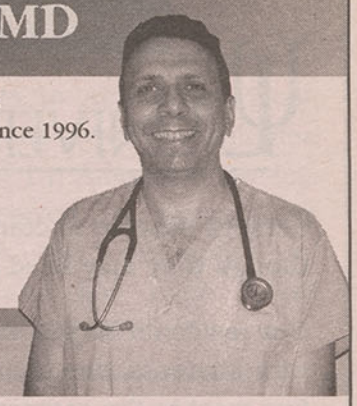
Charlie Slick, The Pizazz, and Mas!: Neutral Zone. Triple bill. Local self-styled "People's Synthesist" Slick plays zingy, boingy synthesizer originals with occasionally sardonic lyrics. The Pizazz is a Detroit indie thrash pop quartet, and Mas! is a pop quartet from Melvindale. *8 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St. $7 (high school ID, $5). 214–9995.*

Peter Mulvey: The Ark. Highly regarded young folkie singer-songwriter from Milwaukee who is known for his complex guitar work, expressively playful vocals, and dark, vividly rendered lyrics. *Acoustic Guitar* called his new CD *Kitchen Radio* a "moody, jazz-inflected" collection that is "engaging, down to earth, and utterly original." Opening act is **Clive Barnes,** a blues and folk-rock singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist from Wexford, Ireland. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Mozart Birthday Bash": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO music director Arie Lipsky conducts the orchestra in a concert celebrating Mozart's 251st birthday. The program is highlighted by the *Coronation Mass in C Major,* with guest vocalists mezzo **Wendy Bloom,** soprano **Jennifer Larson,** and bass-baritone **Chris Grapentine,** and the local **Vocal Arts Ensemble.** Also on the program: the Sinfonia Concertante and Serenade no. 4. The performance is preceded at 7 p.m. by a lecture on the program, with musical examples, by Lipsky. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10–$42 in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, suite 208. $25 dinner-and-concert package available for those ages 21–39. Half-price rush tickets for students with ID at the door only. 994–4801.*

Sekou Sundiata: University Musical Society. This electrifying Grammy-nominated New York City poet performs ***The 51st (dream) state,*** his lyrical, reflective meditation on the national state of mind in a post–9/11 America at war. The work combines poetry, video projections of taped interviews, modern dance by New York dancer David Thomson, and live music ranging from classical Indian music to R&B and a satirical original song titled "Freedom Is a Breakfast Food." The performers also include vocalists Ronnell Bey, La Tanya Hall, Samita Sinha, and Bora Yoon, and a quintet featuring cornetist Graham Haynes, guitarist Bill White, keyboardist Adam Klipple, bassist Calvin Jones, and drummer Chris Eddleton. *The Age* (Melbourne) critic Cameron Woodhead calls the work an "entertaining and thought-provoking interrogation of contemporary America." *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $14–$34 in advance at Burton*

Dr. Nasser Sukhon, MD



Dr. Sukhon is board certified in Internal Medicine and has been in practice in Clarkson, Michigan, since 1996. He is certified in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, and is a member of the coalition for advanced cardiovascular health, as well as the American Diabetes Association. He specializes in pain management.

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"Arcs and Orbits": EMU Dance Program. See 19 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in Love": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. Closing night. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Language Lessons": Performance Network Professional Season. See 18 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 6 Saturday. 8–9:30 p.m.

Tim O'Rourke: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Scandinavian Couples Dance Party: Multicultural Folk Arts Center. Traditional turning couples dances, mainly from Sweden and Norway, including hambo, schottis, Boda polska, and Telespringar. With live music by fiddler Bruce Sagan & others TBA. No partner necessary. Hard-soled shoes strongly recommended. Snacks. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dance lessons. *8:30–11 p.m., Gretchen's House Dhu Varren, 1580 Dhu Varren. $8 (students, $5). 769–7642.*

Harper: The Firefly Club. Blues-rock band led by Peter Harper, a blues singer-songwriter from Australia, recently transplanted to Grass Lake, who plays blues harp and didgeridoo. The band has an acclaimed new CD on the Blind Pig label, *Down to the Rhythm. 9 p.m.–1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. $10 at the door only. 665–9090.*

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **U-M Campus Chapel. "The Constant Gardener"** (Fernando Meirelles, 2005). Unsettling political thriller, based on the best-selling John Le Carre novel, about a minor English diplomat in Kenya whose investigation of his wife's murder leads to disturbing discoveries about a drug conglomerate. Followed by discussion. FREE. 668–7421. Campus Chapel (1236 Washtenaw Ct.), 8 p.m. **Yankee Air Museum. "12 O'Clock High"** (Henry King, 1949). Large-canvas Oscar-winning classic about WW II squadron of Flying Fortresses that battles against long odds in the early part of the war. Gregory Peck, Hugh Marlowe, Dean Jagger. Pop and popcorn included. $10 (members, $5). 483–4030. Yankee Air Museum Hangar 2 (1 Willow Run, off Ecorse from Beck Road via I-94 exit 190), 6 p.m.

21 SUNDAY

"The Monster Ann Arbor Record & CD Show": Orangapoid Productions. This popular fair is back at a new location with more than 50 dealers from a half dozen states selling rare and collectible used records and CDs as well as hard-to-find new releases. Includes every popular music genre from rock 'n' roll, jazz, soul, pop, country, and blues to funk, punk, surf, thrash, heavy metal, garage rock, and more. Also, rock music books, rock videos, posters, and assorted popular culture memorabilia. This show draws huge crowds all day long. Come early, or someone else might snatch up the record you're looking for. Food and beverages for sale. Patrons may bring in a small number of records to sell. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $3 admission (children 10 & under, free). For information or to reserve a dealer table, call 475–1006.*

★"Humanism, Unitarianism, Agnosticism, and Atheism": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship. Talks by retired engineer Doug Tracy and U-M humanities professor emeritus Ralph Loomis. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

Contact Improv. All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experimentations with gravity, and there's lots of close physical contact. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required. *12:30–2:30 p.m., Jazzercise Dance Studio, 1945 South Industrial. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★"Worst Day of the Year Ride": Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce getDowntown Program. All invited to join 40-mile (1 p.m.), 12-mile (2 p.m.), and 6-mile (2:30 p.m.) rides around Ann Arbor. Prizes for the rider who completes the ride with the largest stuffed animal tied to themselves, for the rider with the most outrageous costume, and for the winner of a trivia contest. *1:30, 2, & 2:30 p.m., meet at the Farmers' Market, Detroit St. at N. Fifth Ave. Reservations requested. (Those who register by January 16 receive a free gift bag.) Free. 214–0100.*

★"Community Memorial Gathering": Ann Arbor District Library/Braveheart Grief Services of Arbor Hospice & Home Care. All who have lost a loved one during the past year are invited to read the deceased's name, attach a snowflake bearing the name to a large mural, and share a story of memory about the person who has died. Light refreshments. *2–4 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

"Fallujah 2004": Ann Arbor Middle East Film Society. Screening of Japanese independent journalist Toshikuni Doi's documentary about the aftermath of the U.S. siege of Fallujah. Discussion follows. *2 p.m., Michigan Theater. $5 suggested donation. 668–1358.*

★The Mosaic Singers: Ann Arbor District Library. This octet from the award-winning Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit performs a program of vocal music exploring themes of citizenship and diversity. In conjunction with 2007 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads (see 25 Thursday listing). *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★Honors Band and Orchestra: EMU Music Department. These ensembles of top high school musicians from around the state perform a program TBA. *2 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All invited for an afternoon of contra and square dancing to live music, with callers John Freeman and David Park Williams and music by David West, Donna Baird, and Mark Williams. Also, "play-party games," popular 19th-century musical games without instrumental accompaniment. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $6 (family, $12). 769–1052.*

"Arcs and Orbits": EMU Dance Program. See 19 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Language Lessons": Performance Network Professional Season. See 18 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★"Curious about Climate: Why Weather Works": U-M Exhibit Museum/Ann Arbor District Library. *January 21, 24, & 27 (different locations).* All kids ages 6–11 (accompanied by an adult) invited to learn about past climates from petrified tree rings and try a hands-on test to learn about the cause of global warming. In conjunction with the new Exhibit Museum exhibit *Climate Change: Local Impacts, Global Responsibility* (see Galleries). *3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. Preregistration required. 764–0478.*

★"Raise Your Fork: A Tribute to Local Food Producers": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor. Talks by U-M art students and local-food enthusiasts Taylor Rutledge and Heather Leavitt. *4–6 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave. Free. 662–8661.*

★Emery Stephens: Concordia University. This lyric baritone performs Vaughan Williams's *Five Mystical Songs,* works by Bach and Handel, and traditional spirituals. He is accompanied by 4 Concordia music faculty colleagues—trumpeter Jean Libs, organist Jason Alden, pianist Brian Altevogt, and vocalist Kara Alfano—and the Concordia student choir Arborsong. *4 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes Rd. at Earhart. Free. 995–7537.*

"Peter and the Wolf": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. AASO music director Arie Lipsky conducts the symphony in a family concert featuring Prokofiev's delightful musical fable, composed to introduce children to the parts of an orchestra. The performance is preceded by an instrument petting zoo (2:30–3:30 p.m., free to ticketholders) offering kids an up-close look at the orchestra's instruments. *4 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $12 (children, $5) in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, suite 208. Half-price rush tickets for students with ID at the door only. 994–4801.*

The Chieftains: University Musical Society. For more than 40 years, the world's best-known traditional Irish ensemble has been dusting off almost-forgotten reels, hornpipes, jigs, ballads, and slow airs and performing them with infectious zest and fun. With a broad appeal beyond the usual folk music following, the quartet plays strictly traditional songs and brings a Celtic sensibility to many other idioms, from Galician Spanish music to American country and pop. Their latest CD, *Further Down the Old Plank Road,* features collaborations with everyone from Nickel Creek to Doc Watson. Members include uilleann piper Paddy Moloney, flutist Matt Molloy, fiddler Sean Keane, and Kevin Conneff on bodhran. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$48 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★"Inventing the Judeo-Christian Tradition": Temple Beth Emeth. Talk by U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies director Deborah Dash Moore. Followed by discussion in small groups. *6–7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Rd. Free. 665–4744.*

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21 SUNDAY *continued*

Neil Woodward: The Ark. Traditional and original ballads and songs by this Detroit veteran who sings in a thickly textured, soulful voice, accompanying himself on 6- and 12-string guitars, steel guitar, harmonica, mandolin, fiddle, Autoharp, whistle, and banjo. Woodward was recently designated "Michigan's Troubadour" by the state legislature. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. See 7 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Rap It Up": Improv Inferno. See 7 Sunday. 9:30 p.m.

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. See 7 Sunday. 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

22 MONDAY

★**"It's All Write: Short Story Writing Contest": Ann Arbor District Library.** All area middle and high school students invited to submit an original short story between today and March 19. Winners announced on May 19 during the Ann Arbor Book Festival. $250, $150, and $100 cash prizes for top 3 winners in 3 age divisions: grades 6–8, grades 9 & 10, and grades 11 & 12. *10 a.m., AADL main library youth department or any of the 3 branches. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Monday beginning January 22.* Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Play days are also offered (beginning the week of January 16) at the Pittsfield (Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Malletts Creek (Tuesdays, 10–11 a.m., & Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.), and Northeast (Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★**"Politics, Power, and Institutions": U-M Latin American and Caribbean Studies.** Talk by National Autonomous University of Mexico philosophy professor Enrique Dussel. *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–0844.*

★**"Caring for Amish Patients": U-M Health System Multicultural Health Series.** Talk by EMU sociology professor Denise Reiling. *Noon–1 p.m., Mott Children's Hospital Auditorium, 1505 Simpson (off E. Medical Center Dr. from Observatory). Free. 936–9836.*

★**"Jake in Transition from Female to Male": Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Photographer Clarissa Sligh discusses the exhibit (see Galleries) of her photographs of a transsexual's change from woman to man. *3–5 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 State St. Free. 764–9537.*

★**"Establishing Truth and Responsibility in Postconflict Societies": U-M Institute for the Humanities/Rackham Graduate School Perspectives on Human Rights Seminar Series.** Talk by Humanitarian Law Center (Belgrade, Serbia) founder and executive director **Natasa Kandic.** *4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 936–3518.*

★**Marie Howe: U-M English Department.** *See review, p. 83.* Poetry reading by this Columbia creative writing professor, the author of 2 collections, *The Good Thief* and *What the Living Do*. "Her long, deep-breathing lines address the mysteries of flesh and spirit, in terms accessible only to a woman who is very much of our time and yet still in touch with the sacred," says Stanley Kunitz. He calls Howe's poetry "luminous, intense, and eloquent, rooted in an abundant inner life." *5 p.m., location TBA. Free. 615–3710.*

Leon Redbone: The Ark. Redbone is an iconoclastic folkie with a darkly resonant voice and a cultivated air of mystery undiminished by his somewhat buffoonish role in TV commercials. Always outfitted in a (usually white) suit, his trademark Panama hat, and sunglasses, Redbone sits in a chair with his legs crossed and, accompanying himself on guitar, whispers or croons ragtime tunes, traditional urban and country blues, and early–20th-century jazz, crooner pop, and vaudeville songs. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $22.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Melange. "Monday Night Movie & Dinner." See 8 Monday. Tonight: ***Dr. Strangelove*** (Stanley Kubrick, 1964) is a celebrated Cold War satire. Peter Sellers, George C. Scott, Sterling Hayden. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Notes on a Scandal"** (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

23 TUESDAY

★**"Combatants for Peace": Ann Arbor Chapter of the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace.** Two members of this Israeli-Palestinian Group—former Israeli soldier Elik Elhanan and former Palestinian combatant and prisoner Sulaiman Al Hamri—discuss their transition from veteran fighters to peace activists. Also, Elhanan and Al Hamri make their presentation earlier today at an afternoon time and campus location TBA. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 994–5717.*

★**"Health News You Can Use: Natural Solutions to Common Health Care Problems": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local chiropractor Andrea Bresson. *7–8:15 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.*

★**"New Frontiers in Psychiatry: Brain Stimulation Treatments in a High-Tech Age": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by U-M psychiatry professors Daniel Maixner and Stephan Taylor. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Clayton Eshleman: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This National Book Award-winning poet and translator (see 25 Thursday listing) reads from *The Complete Poetry of Cesar Vallejo*, his new translation of the influential early 20th-century protosurrealist Peruvian poet. Eshleman's readings are preceded by readings of the poems in Spanish by a reader TBA. Signing. *7 p.m., U-M Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 662–7407.*

Dinner Dance: Tuesday Night Dancers. Ballroom dancing to live music by the Mike Wolverton Band. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dinner. No jeans. *8–10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $17 in advance only. (517) 787–6367, (517) 592–5771.*

★**Quorum Chamber Arts Collective: EMU Music Department.** The acclaimed new-music ensemble of music professors from Michigan and around the country performs works by Webern, the contemporary American composer Roshanne Etezady, the late U-M music professor William Albright, and U-M music professor Evan Chambers. *8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Nervous but Excited: The Ark "Take a Chance Tuesdays."** The Lansing singer-songwriter duo of Kate Peterson and Sarah Cleaver combines a down-to-earth point of view, progressive politics, and resonant, ringing vocal harmonies. Part of a monthly series of free concerts showcasing lesser-known artists on the roster of the prestigious local management agency Fleming Artists. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 761–1451.*

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

24 WEDNESDAY

★**"Maintaining the Michigan Difference After Proposal 2": Annual MLK Luncheon and Discussion Series (20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium).** Lunch followed by a panel discussion on the effect of Proposal 2 on U-M engineering school student recruitment, with speakers TBA. *Noon–1:30 p.m., Johnson Rooms, Lurie Engineering Center, College of Engineering, 1221 Beal Ave. Free. 936–0255.*

★**"Curious about Climate: Why Weather Works": U-M Exhibit Museum/Ann Arbor District Library.** See 21 Sunday. *4–5 p.m. AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 327–4200.*

★**Kristin Beaver: EMU Art Department.** Talk by this WSU art professor who makes larger-than-life portraits of herself and friends in cinematic poses. *5 p.m., EMU Halle Library auditorium (off Oakwood from Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. Free. 487–0465.*

★**Matthew Shlian: Washtenaw Community College GalleryOne.** This paper artist (see Galleries) gives a slide-illustrated talk on his paper sculptures inspired by molecular forms. *5:30–8 p.m., 375 Liberal Arts Bldg., Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 477–8512.*

★**"African Writers Panel Discussion on Citizenship": U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies.** Panel discussion by U-M French and comparative literature professor **Frieda Ekotto,** Sene-

poetry

Marie Howe

"A nearly unendurable joy"

Marie Howe's second collection of poems, *What the Living Do,* has a unique place in contemporary letters. It is a widely read book that appeals to many different kinds of readers, often those who don't read much contemporary poetry, if any at all. And often her readers are a bit puzzled about exactly what has moved them so much.

Although Howe came to the art comparatively late—she didn't start working seriously on her poems until she was around thirty—she arrived with a level of experience that enriched her work. Since many of the poems in *What the Living Do* recount personal narratives of childhood abuse and later losses—in particular, the death of the poet's brother from AIDS and the death of her good friend, the poet (originally from Ann Arbor) Jane Kenyon—it is easy for some readers to associate Howe with the Confessional Poets, particularly with the obsessive self-absorption of Anne Sexton or Sylvia Plath.

But Marie Howe is decidedly *not* that kind of poet. Although she has a good ear that is attuned to the moment and has allowed her to absorb the best of the fashions of this moment, something else shapes these poems, something that can't be taught or learned. Margaret Atwood wrote about Howe's first collection, *The Good Thief,* that her readers "occasionally [feel] that cool wind at the back of the neck that makes you think there's one more person in the room than there actually is." That is a lovely way of describing the captivating feel of Marie Howe's poems. These are visionary, even ecstatic and religious poems from a poet who occasionally senses things beyond the realm where most of us spend most of our time. We recognize that realm when we see it, even if we can't describe it.

Here's an example of what I mean from "Memorial," a poem near the end of *What the Living Do*. The poem describes the illness and death of another young man, Billy:

and something began to move through
the room,
as if energy were
rising, like thickening air,
as if spirit were pleasure

pushing through the room, through
even our faces,

a molecular, invisible . . .
If this was Billy

he was so vast—
the way one field leads onto another,

vast to have been contained
all that time, in that body,

—a nearly unendurable joy
a steady outpouring for over an hour

so that when the men came back from
dinner they found
Billy dead in the sheets

and the three of us almost drunkenly smiling.

That seems to me to be an exact presentation of moments I have had watching my loved ones die—a moment that mixes grief with something else I haven't been able to define. This poet helps me understand it.

Marie Howe reads from her poetry at a campus location TBA on Monday, January 22.

—Keith Taylor

galese novelist **Fatou Diome,** and U-M Romance languages and literatures lecturer **Nimrod Bena Djangrang.** *5:30 p.m., 4701 Haven Hall, 505 S. State. Free. 764–5518.*

★**"The Climate Will Change: Now What?": U-M Exhibit Museum Science Cafe.** Short presentations by U-M atmospheric, oceanic, and space sciences professors Perry Samson and Richard Rood. Followed by discussion. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by free hors d'oeuvres. In conjunction with the new Exhibit Museum exhibit *Climate Change: Local Impacts, Global Responsibility* (see Galleries). *6–7:30 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Free. 764–0478.*

"French Mustards and Vinaigrettes": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's French food expert Solomon James discusses and offers taste samples of French mustards and vinaigrettes. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door upstairs kids room, 422 Detroit St. $20. Reservations required. 663–3354.*

★**Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. Legos Mindstorms robots and radio-controlled cars available for kids to use. *7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Jackson behind KFC). Free. 332–1000.*

★**"Animanga Club for Teens": Ann Arbor District Library.** All anime and manga fans in grades 6–12 are invited to discuss their favorite sports manga and do a T-shirt craft. Free Pocky, a Japanese novelty snack popular with anime fans. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Biking from Germany to Nepal": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M mathematics grad student Florian Block discusses the 5-month, 7,000-mile solo bicycle trip he took earlier this year. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Another Ann Arbor": Nicola's Books.** Ann Arborites **Lola Jones** and **Carol Gibson** discuss their new book about the history of the Ann Arbor area black community (see 13 Saturday). *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**"A Good War Is Hard to Find: The Art of Violence in America": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts creative writing chair **David Griffith,** a frequent contributor to the faith and culture quarterly *Godspy*, reads from his new book, a collection of essays, inflected with a radical Catholic philosophy, exploring the ways that society's shift from language to image has facilitated a disconnect with reality that has changed the way people think about violence and cruelty. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** See 10 Wednesday. Tonight: fiction readings by U-M creative writing lecturer **Ashley David,** host of WCBN-FM's *Living Writers* show. 7–9:30 p.m.

★**Tom Clavin: Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.** This freelance journalist discusses ***Halsey's Typhoon,*** the gripping account he cowrote of a WW II typhoon that sank 3 destroyers and cost more American lives than the Battle of Midway. The survivors included then U.S. Navy lieutenant Gerald Ford, who survived the storm literally by his fingertips. *Black Hawk Down* author Mark Bowden calls *Halsey's Typhoon* "briskly written and carefully researched." *7:30 p.m., Gerald Ford Presidential Library, 1000 Beal Ave., North Campus. Free. Reservations requested. 205–0540.*

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Dean Christopher Kendall conducts this music-student ensemble in Prokofiev's popular *Lieutenant Kije Suite* and the world premiere of grad student Ian Dicke's *Million Dollar Movie*. Also, a concerto TBA featuring a winner of the 2007 Concerto Competition (see 9 Tuesday). *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

★**"Courtly Gestures": U-M Institute for the Humanities.** Performance by **Yang Wei,** a world-renowned master of the *pipa*, a Chinese lute. A Chinese native who now lives in Chicago, Wei performed with the National Shanghai Orchestra at age 18 and has since performed in concerts around the world, including as part of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project in 2000. The program of traditional, classical and contemporary music showcases the versatility of his instrument. *8 p.m., U-M School of Music McIntosh Theater, 100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 936–3518.*

Kasim Sulton: The Ark. Best known as the vocalist in Todd Rundgren's prog-rock band Utopia, Sulton is a veteran bassist and singer-songwriter whose repertoire includes artful powerpop originals, as well as Utopia music and songs he recorded as a session musician with an array of performers from the Cars to Meatloaf. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Notes on a Scandal" (Richard Eyre, 2006). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

25 THURSDAY

★**"Therapeutic Advances in Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma: A New Era???": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Talk by Stanford dermatology professor Yuon Kim, the Martin Luther King Jr. visiting dermatology professor. *8:30 a.m., 1910 Taubman Center, 1500 E. Medical Dr. Free. 936–4078.*

★**"Excel Basics": Ann Arbor District Library.** *January 25 & 26.* 2-part introduction to the basics of using a worksheet. *10 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard), & 1 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. (between Scio Church Rd.) and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★**"What Christian Art Tells Us about Buddhist Icons in the Edo Period": U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** Talk by U-M art history professor Kevin Carr. *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6307.*

★**Book Lovers' Club: Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.** All invited to discuss Tracy Kidder's ***Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*** (see Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads listing below), and ***Prison Angel: Mother Antonia's Journey from Beverly Hills to a Life of Service in a Mexican Jail,*** Mary Jordan and Kevin Sullivan's account of a wealthy Californian who decided to live in a Tijuana jail and work for Mexican prisoners. Refreshments. *Noon–4 p.m., Washtenaw County Library conference room B, County Service Center, 4135 Washtenaw at Hogback. Free. 971–6059.*

★**Rattawut Lapcharoensap and Elwood Reid: U-M English Department.** Readings by these 2 fiction writers. Lapcharoensap is a U-M creative writing grad whose story collection *Sightseeing*, set largely in contemporary Thailand, explores family bonds, youthful romance, generational conflicts, and the cultural effects of Westernization. Reid is a former U-M offensive lineman who made a big splash in the late 90s with *If I Don't Six,* his semiautobiographical first novel about the dark side of college football. His latest novel, *D. B.: A Novel,* is a fictional account of what became of D. B. Cooper, the skyjacker who disappeared with $200,000 in ransom money in 1971. *5 p.m., Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 615–3710.*

★**Clayton Eshleman and Catherine Wagner: EMU English Department Bathhouse Reading Series.** Readings by these 2 poets. A founder and editor of the seminal poetry journals *Caterpillar* and *Sulfur* and a former EMU English professor, Eshleman is a

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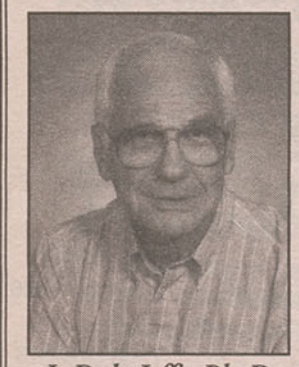

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25 THURSDAY *continued*

National Book Award-winning poet whose poems are driven forward by a neo-Whitmanesque poetic personality, unruly and explosive, and a correspondingly inventive language. "An Eshleman poem is unmistakable at first glance," says poet and critic Eliot Weinberger. "Image jams against image, not impressionistically but in service of a passionately argued line of reason, a line in which an idea, before completion, turns into another idea, and then another." Eshleman is also a renowned translator whose *Complete Poetry of Cesar Vallejo*—a project 48 years in the making—is due out this fall. *Note:* Eshleman reads from his Vallejo translation at Shaman Drum bookshop on January 23 (see listing). Wagner is a Miami University English professor whose most recent book, *Macular Hole,* is a collection of poems exploring the power of language to accommodate an embodied self's multiple identities. "These are poems of sex and identity, poems of spleen and craving, poems of grim energy and outspoken crisis," says the English critic Josephine Ebert. "[Wagner's] neo-surreal vision and neo-dada attitude are matched by an exceptional feel for the magic of simple language—her poems organically grow down the page without effort, every line seeming right. She manages this by infusing every new image (and every repetition) with a corresponding voice posture." *5 p.m., 350 Student Center, 900 Oakwood (between Washtenaw & N. Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–1310.*

★**"Creating Place, Creating Resistance": U-M School of Art and Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by U-M art professor Janie Paul, who helps organize the annual Prison Creative Arts Project, which comes to the U-M campus in March. *5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 936–2082.*

★**"Colonialism Now: Recolonization and the Writing of Contemporary History in Africa": U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies.** Talk by Columbia University history professor Gregory Mann. *5:30 p.m., 4701 Haven Hall, 505 S. State. Free. 764–5518.*

★**Book Club: Association for Women in Computing.** All invited to discuss David Allen's self-help guide ***Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity.*** *5:30–7 p.m., Arborland Starbucks, 3601 Washtenaw. Free. 930–7854.*

Annual Meeting: Washtenaw County Conservation District. Dinner and a talk by state natural resources conservation services agronomist Jerry Grigar on **"No-Till Farming in Belarus."** *6:30 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. $9 (children, $5) in advance and at the door. Preregistration requested. 761–6721, ext. 5.*

★**"Buyer Be Fair": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice/Zion Lutheran Church.** Screening of John De Graaf and Hana Jindrova's 2006 documentary about fair trade coffee production. Preceded by a light dinner and followed by discussion. *6:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. Free. 663–1870.*

★**"Budapest: The Paris of Eastern Europe": Of Global Interest.** Local adventure tour owner Heather O'Neal screens a travel video about highlights of a trip she took to Hungary. *7 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free. 369–3107.*

"January Producers Feast": Zingerman's Delicatessen. All invited to enjoy Zingerman's favorite Jewish comfort foods and join a roundtable discussion with some of the county's best food producers about their relationship with their customers. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $35 in advance, $40 at the door. 663–3400.*

★**Colleen Gleason: Liberty Borders.** This Brighton writer discusses ***The Rest Falls Away: The Gardella Vampire Chronicles,*** her novel about a young female vampire slayer whose heart is torn between London's most eligible bachelor and her enigmatic ally. Also, signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Embracing Eatonville": U-M Museum of Art.** *January 25 & 26.* Docent-guided tours of this exhibit of photographs depicting everyday life in this Florida community, the oldest black incorporated town in the U.S. Note temporary new UMMA location. *7 p.m. (Jan. 25) & 2 p.m. (Jan. 26), UMMA OffSite, 1301 South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**"Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World": 2007 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads.** Pulitzer Prize–winning nonfiction writer **Tracy Kidder** discusses his book about the renowned infectious-disease specialist. Signing; copies of the book available for purchase. The book has been chosen for the annual Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads communitywide reading program. Other Ann Arbor Reads programs this month include book discussion leader training sessions (see 8 Monday listing), as well as a screening of the AIDS documentary *A Closer Walk* on January 11, a discussion of Y. Blak Moore's *The Apostles* on January 11, a performance by the Mosaic Youth Singers on January 21, and a discussion of the book at the Washtenaw County Library (see listing above). *7:30–8:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 327–4560.*

"The Tempest": EMU Theater Department. *January 25–27.* Lee Stille directs EMU drama students in Shakespeare's culminating work, a visionary romance set on a magical island ruled by the enigmatic but benevolent sorcerer Prospero and his beautiful daughter Miranda. Prospero is in fact the exiled duke of Milan, who conjures a storm that shipwrecks his old enemies upon his island. *The Tempest* is filled with verse and song (including the famous "Full fathom five") and contains some of Shakespeare's most gorgeously haunting poetry. *8 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets $6 in advance and at the door. 487–1221.*

"Language Lessons": Performance Network Professional Season. See 18 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *January 25–27.* Ann Arbor debut of this veteran guest performer in TV sitcoms, a very funny and playfully irreverent stand-up comic who bills himself as "The Laziest Working Man in Show Business," sometimes even performing in PJs. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served (all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows). *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"The Catfight": Improv Inferno. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Volver" (Pedro Almodovar, 2006). *January 26–31.* Acclaimed tale of 3 generations of women, centered on a put-upon housewife who is alienating her daughter as she attempts to avoid repeating the mistakes of her past. Penelope Cruz, Carmen Maura. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

26 FRIDAY

★**"Armenians in Lebanon: A Minority Among Minorities": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by U-M history professor Gerard Libaridian. *11 a.m.–noon, 2004 Modern Languages, 812 E. Washington. Free. 764–0350.*

★**LezRead Book Club: Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project.** All invited to discuss ***They Say She Tastes like Honey,*** Michelle Sawyer's novel about a footloose 40–something vacation cruise agent whose life is increasingly adrift until she encounters a younger woman. *4:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 663–0036.*

30th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. *January 26 & 27 (different programs).* A major highlight of the local musical year, with established and rising stars representing a wide spectrum of vernacular musical idioms. Emcee both nights is Purple Rose Theater founder (and film star) **Jeff Daniels,** who is also a prolific folk-style singer-songwriter. Tonight's headliner is **Rufus Wainwright.** The son of Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, Wainwright is an acclaimed young singer-songwriter known for lush, piano-based neocabaret pop ballads that he sings in what *Rolling Stone* calls "a rough-silk voice [that] sounds like a worn, inebriated diva sweeping down a staircase." Also appearing: **Jackie Greene** is a young Sacramento, California, singer-songwriter with a distinctive poetic touch whose facility with folk, blues, and honky-tonk idioms and attitudes has provoked comparisons to Dylan and Tom Waits. **Ember Swift** is a singer-songwriter from Toronto—Joni Mitchell is one of her fans—whom one critic called a "jazz vocalist inhabiting the body of an alternative-folk singer-songwriter." **Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble** is a Toronto-based ensemble led by renowned *taiko* (Japanese drum) player Nagata that performs a modernized variety of Japanese folk drumming combining thunderous, primal drumbeats and subtle intricate rhythms with synchronized dance moves. **Martha Wainwright** (Rufus's younger sister) is a pop-folk singer-songwriter with a clear, piercing voice whose songs blend rich, supple melodies with an engaging variety of moods and emotions. **Gandalf Murphy & the Slambovian Circus of Dreams** is a very popular folk-rock quartet from the Hudson Valley whose music one fan described as sounding "as if David Bowie recorded *Hunky Dory* with the Band in the basement of Big Pink." **Millish** is a local quartet, led by All-

Ireland champion uilleann piper Tyler Duncan, that blends spirited Irish music with music from Scotland, Brittany, Bulgaria, and Spain, and even jazz and rock 'n' roll. The **RFD Boys** is a veteran local bluegrass band. *6:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $30–$150 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. Tickets for both shows ($80) available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & other Ticketmaster outlets only. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Yoga Groove": Sun Moon Yoga Studio. Michael Gibson-Faith and Jo Horn lead a session of easy, fluid freestyle dance with elements of yoga. *7–9 p.m., Sun Moon Studio, 404 W. Huron. Donation. 929–0274.*

"Put It on Wax": Neutral Zone. Triple bill. Neutral Zone DJs host this monthly dance party. A benefit for the Neutral Zone "Turntablism" class. *7 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St. $5 with high school ID. 214–9995.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Denver. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Ferris State. *January 26 & 27. 8 p.m. (Jan. 26) & 7:30 p.m. (Jan. 27), Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

★Joel Schoenhals and Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra: EMU Music Department. Pianist Schoenhals and harpsichordist Ruiter-Feenstra perform a program of duets by Mozart and pupils of J. S. Bach. *7:30 p.m., EMU Alexander Bldg. Organ Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

"And the Winner Is . . .": Out Loud Chorus. *January 26 & 27.* Jon Moore directs this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in a program of Oscar-winning songs, including "Hooray for Hollywood," "Miss Cellie's Blues," "The Time Warp," a Disney medley, and more. *8 p.m., Washtenaw Community Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $12 in advance at Common Language Bookstore and aaoutloud.org, $15 at the door. Children under 12, free. 973–6084.*

"Wine, Women, and Song": Kerrytown Concert House. *January 26 & 27.* An elegant evening of jazz, classical, and cabaret songs showcasing noted local women singers. Performers include **Carolyn Burnstein, Naz Edwards, Susan Shipman, Susan Booth, Lisa Gray, Shelley MacMillan, Elizabeth Major, Deanna Relyea, Jennifer Hilbish-Schuetz,** and **Wendy Bloom,** who also directs. Wine is served. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $50 per night. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

VooDoo One-Act Play Festival: Greenhills School. *January 26 & 27.* An evening of student-directed plays. *8 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. $8 (students, $5). 205–4057.*

"Language Lessons": Performance Network Professional Season. See 18 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Tempest": EMU Theater Department. See 25 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Citizen Improv": Improv Inferno. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 25 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Armenian Hye Hop: U-M Armenian Students Cultural Association. Benefit dance with live Armenian dance music by musicians TBA. Buffet dinner and cash bar. *8:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Polo Fields Country Club, 5200 Polo Fields Dr. $33 (students, $23) in advance or at the door. (248) 735–3783.*

FILMS

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. "Monsieur Ibrahim" (Francois Dupeyron, 2003). Coming-of-age tale of a lonely young boy who befriends an elderly shopkeeper. Omar Sharif, Pierre Boulanger, Gilbert Melki. French, subtitles. Popcorn. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (207 E. Washington), 7 p.m. **MTF. "Volver"** (Pedro Almodovar, 2006). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

27 SATURDAY

19th Annual Farm Toy Show: Saline Future Farmers of America 14th Annual Benefit. This show and sale of farm toys is aimed at both kids and serious collectors. Includes farm vehicle, harvesting vehicle, and truck collectibles, complete farm sets, NASCAR items, and Beanie Babies. Food and vendor tables available. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $3 (ages 6–12, $2; age 5 & under, free). 429–8030 ext. 2343.*

★"The Early Days of Radio in Michigan": Concordia University. Talk by a Program Source International Multimedia representative TBA. Also, screening of a PSIM documentary about early Michigan radio. *10 a.m., 109 Krieger, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–4612.*

★"Birding for Beginners": Waterloo Recreation Area. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh leads a hike for novice birders to look for year-round resident birds in the leafless wintry landscape and learn to identify them. Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress for the weather. *10 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★"Heart Health Without Drugs": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local nutritionist Judy Stone. *10–11:30 a.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.*

★"Curious about Climate: Why Weather Works": U-M Exhibit Museum/Ann Arbor District Library. See 21 Sunday. *10–11 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard), & 2–3 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. Preregistration required. 327–4200.*

★"Annual Winter Stone Fly Search": Huron River Watershed Council. All invited to join a watershed-wide stone fly hunt, which sometimes involves chopping through ice and coping with fast-freezing water samples. This is the Watershed Council's most popular event. "People just come back glowing—they have no idea how much life is active under the ice," an organizer notes. Bring warm clothes and a hot drink (waterproof shoes not required). *10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. or 12–4 p.m., meeting time TBA. Free. Preregistration required by Jan. 15. 769–5123 ext. 11.*

"Chillin' at the Mills": Hudson Mills Metropark. A family-oriented program of winter activities, including (weather permitting) cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dogsledding, and more. Also, a craft activity. Hot chocolate. *11 a.m.–2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 426–8211.*

"Speak for Yourself": Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit (Performance Network Children's Theater Network). This nationally acclaimed Detroit-based ensemble of young performers ages 12–19 presents its interactive play about racé, a mosaic comprising the voices of Arab, Asian, African, and Latin American teenagers. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youths age 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

★Swordplay: Ring of Steel. Michigan Opera Theater fight director **Chris Barbeau** leads an hour of duel demonstrations followed by an hour of stunt demonstrations. *11:30 a.m., U-M Student Theater Arts Complex, 1201 Kipke Dr. (behind Crisler Arena). Free. 320–1147.*

★Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. All seniors invited to join longtime Turner volunteer Dorothy Mack to celebrate the legacy of MLK with inspirational, soul-stirring words and music. *1–3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★"Mystery of the Missing Groundhog": Waterloo Recreation Area. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh and other Waterloo staff present their original puppet show about a reporter's efforts to discover where the groundhog is hibernating. *2–3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★"Trumpet Valves: Who Needs Them?": U-M School of Music Stearns Lecture. Hope College trumpet professor Jimmy Leach discusses and demonstrates how valves changed the trumpet from an overtone-based instrument to a chromatic one. *2 p.m., 506 Burton Memorial Tower. Free. 764–0594.*

"Safe Kids Fund-Raiser": Ann Arbor Quest Martial Arts. Kids can learn and practice various kicks and punches, and participate in a workout. *3–5 p.m., Quest Martial Arts, 2111 Packard. Donation. 332–1800.*

30th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. See 26 Friday. Tonight's headliner is **John Prine,** a legendary singer-songwriter whose music has undergone a number of changes since he first appeared on the scene more than 30 years ago, from singer-songwriter folk to rock to country to Sun Records-style rockabilly to the blues-based songs on his Grammy-winning 1991 LP *The Missing Years*. But underneath all these mutations, the songs have remained essentially the same. From early gems like "Sam Stone," "Hello in There," and "That's the Way the World Goes Round" to the more recent "All the

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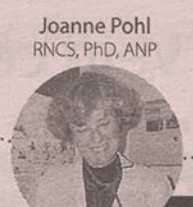

P. Elaine McIntosh
RNCS, MSN, FNP, Director

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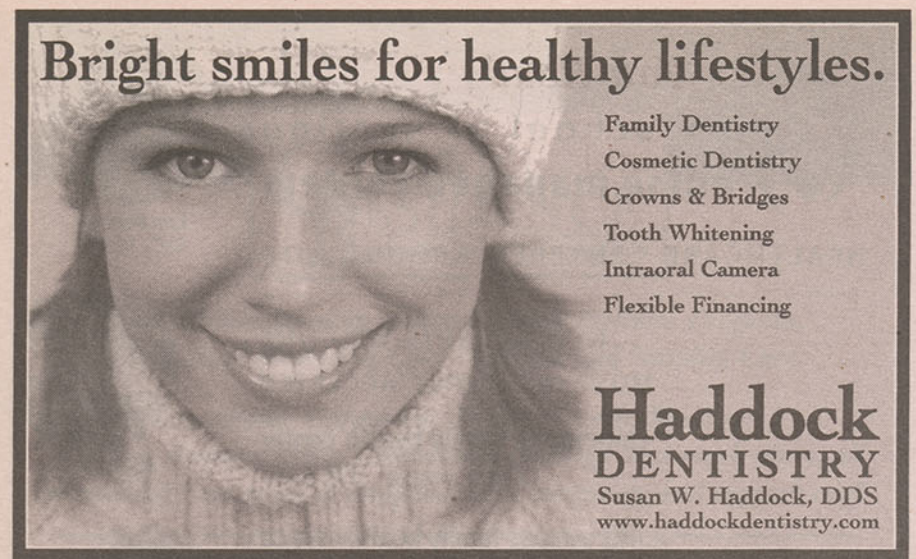

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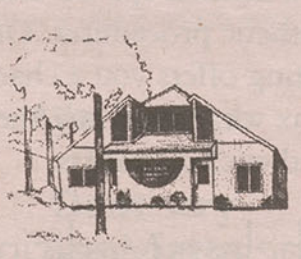

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27 SATURDAY *continued*

Best" and "It's a Big Old Goofy World," Prine has persisted as an always arresting, often luminous chronicler of the inner life of provincial America, its joys and sorrows, its ecstasies and absurdities, its romance and tedium. He's also an engagingly charismatic performer, who sings in a voice that's as flat and tangy as his native midwestern landscape. Also appearing: **Mountain Heart** is a bluegrass ensemble that blends traditional and progressive styles. **Over the Rhine** is a Cincinnati quartet that plays energetic heartland rock 'n' roll that's at once artful and urgent. **Terri Hendrix** is a young Texas singer-songwriter whose rootsy country-folk songs are known for their winning blend of soul-searching lucidity, plucky high spirits, and intimate warmth. She is accompanied by Texas steel guitar legend **Lloyd Maines. Bill Staines** is a veteran singer-songwriter whose restless, brooding songs have been recorded by everyone from Nanci Griffith to Tommy Makem to the late Grandpa Jones. He's also a champion yodeler. **Paul Thorn** is an up-and-coming Mississippi singer-songwriter who writes dark, bluesy, sharp-witted, pungently idiomatic songs about souls under duress. **Daisy May** is the stage name of May Erlewine, a big-voiced singer-songwriter from Big Rapids who writes thoughtful, richly emotional country-flavored songs. The **RFD Boys** is a veteran local bluegrass band. 6:30 p.m.

U-M Men's Gymnastics vs. Oklahoma. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

★**"Prints and Cameras": Ann Arbor Black-and-White Photography Co-op.** All invited to join a group discussion. Also, new member orientation. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 846–4492.*

★**"A Tale from Siam": U-M Thai Student Association.** U-M students perform their 90-minute adaptation of ***Sang Thong [The Prince of the Golden Conch],*** a traditional Thai comedic dance-drama that combines traditional dance and costumes with contemporary dance, music, and visual effects. Also, a Thai buffet lunch and dinner ($15), 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. & 5:30–7 p.m., Chrysler Center Chesebrough Auditorium, 2121 Bonisteel. *1, 4, & 7 p.m., Duderstadt Center Videoconference Suite, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 272–6026.*

George Carlin: Live Nation. Veteran stand-up comic known for his irreverently contentious political and social views and his elegant, cerebral sense of pacing and structure. He's also created a number of routines that have become comic classics, including the 7 words you can't say on TV or radio (or couldn't say 30 years ago) and the psychosocial differences between baseball and football. Opening act is **Dennis Blair,** a veteran stand-up comic whose act mixes topical observations with musical parodies. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $39.50 & $46.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

"Chocolate Crush": Wild Swan Theater. Fancy chocolate treats from local chocolate makers, paired with a variety of wines. Also, silent auction. Proceeds benefit Wild Swan, an acclaimed Ann Arbor–based children's theater troupe. *7:30 p.m., Everyday Cook, Kerrytown Shops. Tickets $50–$125 in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

"4th Saturday Contra Dance": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Tom Allen and Ed Vincent call to music by Dr. Grangelove. No partner needed. All dances taught. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9 (members, $8; students, $5). 730–6919.*

International Folk Dancing. Balkan, Middle Eastern, European, and line and circle dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. *8–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. $3–$5 (students, $1–$3) donation. 995–0011.*

★**"Classic Rock Showcase": Ann Arbor Music Center.** Ensembles of AAMC adult students perform 60s and 70s classic rock. *8 p.m., Starbucks, 1214 South University. Free. 665–0375.*

"And the Winner Is . . .": Out Loud Chorus. See 26 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Wine, Women, and Song": Kerrytown Concert House. See 26 Friday. 8 p.m.

VooDoo One-Act Play Festival: Greenhills School. See 26 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Language Lessons": Performance Network Professional Season. See 18 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Damnation Game": Improv Inferno. See 6 Saturday. 8–9:30 p.m.

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 25 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**"The Complete Homeopathic Resources for Common Illnesses": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Local physician **Dennis Chernin,** a U-M Medical School complementary and alternative medicine lecturer, discusses and signs copies of his new book. Also, Chernin is joined by guitarist Glenn Burdick and tabla player John Churchville to lead attendees in yogic chants. *8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

"The Tempest": EMU Theater Department. See 25 Thursday. 5 & 9 p.m.

Electric Six: The Blind Pig. Energetic, irreverent Detroit guitar-based rock quintet whose music has been described as a "bizarre genetic splicing of punk, new wave, disco, and arena rock." Opening acts are **Johnny Headband,** a local pop band, and **Wolfbait,** a Pink Floyd-style metal band. *10 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $12 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

MTF. "Volver" (Pedro Almodovar, 2006). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

28 SUNDAY

★**"Genealogy of a House": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by Michigan state archivist Mark Harvey. Followed by a session led by Washtenaw County clerk Larry Kestenbaum on **"Understanding Our Ancestors' Political Activities."** *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Indiana *2 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 971–5763.*

"Flights of Fancy": Ann Arbor Concert Band. James Nissen directs this local volunteer ensemble in a concert of Gabrieli's Canzona for Brass and Organ, J. S. Bach's Fantasy in G Major, Wagner's *Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral,* "Mars" and "Jupiter" from Holst's *The Planets,* James Nissen's *Movie Music,* and the Berceuse and Finale from Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite. 2 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $5; children are 12 & under, free). 747–9126.*

"Language Lessons": Performance Network Professional Season. See 18 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Dady Mehta: EMU Music Department.** This EMU music professor performs Schubert's Sonata in G Major and 3 Mozart works, Rondo in A Minor, Fantasy in C Minor, and Sonata in C Minor. *4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music.** U-M music faculty perform in various chamber ensembles. Violinists Yehonatan Berick and Andrew Jennings, violist Katharine Votapek, and cellists Anthony Elliott and Richard Allen perform George Rochberg's Quintet for Strings. Also, Spohr's Double Quartet in D Minor and Shostakovich's Octet for Strings by performers TBA. *4 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

John Wunsch: Kerrytown Concert House. This nationally acclaimed 12-string and nylon-string guitarist performs Latin, jazz, flamenco, and Spanish classical works and originals. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"Sacred Drum Circle": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited for a freeform drum circle. No experience necessary. Bring a drum if you have one. *5 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. $5. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

★**Society for Women Engineers Book Club: Liberty Borders.** All invited to join a discussion of ***On Beauty,*** Zadie Smith's comic novel satirizing the world of an academic cultural critic. *6–8 p.m., Borders cafe, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Bambi Meets Godzilla: Academic Freedom Meets the 9/11 Inside Job": Ann Arbor 9/11 Truth.** Talk by University of Wisconsin Islamic studies lecturer Kevin Barrett, a member of Scholars for 9/11 Truth. Also, Kevin Ryan, a former Underwriters Laboratories chemist who has studied the steel components used in the World Trade Center, discusses the collapse of the WTC from a scientific point of view. *6:30 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. Free. 239–1877.*

★**"Searching for God: A Survey of Modern Jewish Theologies": Temple Beth Emeth.** Talk by Temple Beth Emeth rabbinic intern Jennifer Goldsmith.

6–7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard Rd. Free. 665–4744.

"Get Up Stand Up": Improv Inferno. See 7 Sunday. 8 p.m.

"Rap It Up": Improv Inferno. See 7 Sunday. 9:30 p.m.

"The Sweet Spot with Eye Candy": Improv Inferno. See 7 Sunday. 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. "Meetings with Remarkable Men" (Peter Brook, 1979). Feature film about the life of the turn-of-the-century Turkish-Armenian mystic, philosopher, and writer G. I. Gurdjieff. Dragan Maksimovic, Warren Mitchell, Terence Stamp. FREE. 945–8602. Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers (2007 S. State), 2 p.m. **MTF. "Volver"** (Pedro Almodovar, 2006). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

29 MONDAY

★**"La Merea Populista: The New Latin Americanism and the Ancien Regime": U-M Latin and Caribbean Studies Program.** Talk by University of Pittsburgh Latin American literature professor John Beverley. *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–5261.*

★**Akeel Bilgrami: U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Talk on a topic TBA by this Columbia University philosophy professor. *4 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–5261.*

★**"Work over Welfare: The Inside Story of the 1996 Welfare Reform Law": National Poverty Center/U-M School of Public Policy.** Brookings Institution senior fellow Ron Haskins, a former Bush Administration welfare policy adviser, discusses his new book. Signing & reception follow. *4–5:30 p.m., Weill Hall Annenberg Auditorium, 735 S. State at Hill. Free. 615–5312, 764–3490.*

★**"Animal Rights Vs. Animal Welfare": U-M School of Art and Design.** Panel discussion by representatives from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the American Kennel Club. In conjunction with the *Unleashed* exhibit (see Galleries). *6 p.m., Slusser Gallery, School of Art and Design, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd. Free. 763–4417.*

★**"Science Fair Resource Open House": Ann Arbor District Library.** Ann Arbor Public Schools science teachers Dan Ezekiel and Maureen Michael offer tips for middle school students on selecting a science fair project. Also, displays of experiment books, research materials, and useful websites. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL main library youth department, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler directs this music-student orchestra in Brahms's Symphony no. 4 and the world premiere of grad student David Garner's *Over the Cornice for Orchestra*. Also, a concerto TBA featuring a winner of the 2007 Concerto Competition (see 9 Tuesday). *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

FILMS

Melange. "Monday Night Movie & Dinner." See 8 Monday. Tonight: ***Pulp Fiction*** (Quentin Tarantino, 1994) is a noir comedy about a couple of hit men. John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Bruce Willis, Uma Thurman. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Volver"** (Pedro Almodovar, 2006). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

30 TUESDAY

★**"Go West, Young Man (and Woman)": Elderwise.** Slide-illustrated talk by Washtenaw County Buffalo Soldiers member Jim Mays on the settlement of the West after the Civil War, including little-known stories of African American pioneers. *1 p.m., Cleary College, 3601 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 572–2035.*

★**Linda Pastan: U-M Undergraduate Hopwood Awards Ceremony.** A reading by this award-winning former Maryland poet laureate whose conversational, lyrical poems quietly lead the reader into sudden whirlpools of revelation. A *Boston Globe* critic called Pastan's *Carnival Evening* a "wide, wise, various, sly, sexy, quiet, heartbreaking" book, comparing it to "Robert Frost, in his virtuosity and beauty, and the great Russian poet Anna Akhmatova, in her passion and straightforward honesty." Followed by awards presentations. *3:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–6296.*

★**"Post-Prop 2: What is Next for Women?": U-M Center for the Education of Women.** All invited to join a group discussion about the passed proposal to ban affirmative action. *4 p.m., CEW, 330 E. Liberty. Free. 998–7080.*

★**"Food, Wine, and Romance": Busch's.** Solterra wine label owner Marlena Studer prepares a romantic menu for two, featuring dishes inspired by classic love songs. *6–7:30 p.m., Busch's, 2240 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 998–2666.*

★**"Depression: Seasons and Reasons—A Closer Look at Seasonal Affective Disorder": Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion with U-M Depression Center executive director John Greden and other Depression Center staff. Q&A. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Herbology 101": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local master gardener Madolyn Kaminski. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking and Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.*

★**Barbara Ras: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This award-winning poet, currently director of the Trinity University Press in San Antonio, reads from ***One Hidden Stuff,*** her new collection of exuberant, densely figured lyrics about the joys and sorrows of everyday life. *Booklist* praises her "penetrating imagination, which turns even the simplest things iridescent with myriad shades of meaning." Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. Films TBA. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

31 WEDNESDAY

★**"Genetics and Health Disparities: Building Communities to Address New Scientific Challenges and Opportunities": 20th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.** Talks by Cedars Sinai Medical Center physician Bernice Coleman, U-M public health professor Toby Citrin, and U-M nursing professor Jacquelyn Taylor. *Noon–1:30 p.m., Great Lakes Room, Palmer Commons, 100 Washtenaw. Free. 936–1615.*

★**Kevin Young: U-M English Department.** Poetry reading by this young Emory University creative writing professor whose 4 collections of poetry include *Jelly Roll*, a National Book Award finalist. "Young uses the blues as a template, fusing popular music and black vernacular and thereby placing himself squarely in the African American poetic tradition pioneered by such writers as Langston Hughes," says a *Washington Post Book World* critic. *5 p.m., Residential College Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 615–3710.*

★**"Right in Our Own Backyard: Climate Change Impacts and Policy Responses in the Great Lakes Basin": U-M Exhibit Museum.** Talks by U-M ecology and environmental biology professor George Kling and U-M public policy and natural resources professor Barry Rabe. In conjunction with the new Exhibit Museum exhibit *Climate Change: Local Impacts, Global Responsibility* (see Galleries). *6–8 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

"Middle Eastern Feast": Eve Restaurant. Dinner featuring dishes from the cuisines of Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, and other Middle Eastern countries. Paired with a variety of Middle Eastern wines. *7 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. $60. Preregistration required. 222–0711.*

★**"From a Songcatcher's Notebook": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Traditional Appalachian tales and songs by veteran North Carolina folklorist **Lee Knight.** He accompanies himself on Cherokee flute and drum, Appalachian fretless banjo and dulcimer, mouthbow, and other folk instruments. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** See 10 Wednesday. Tonight: poetry reading by **Christine Hume,** an EMU English professor whose debut collection *Musca Domestica* won the Barnard New Women Poets prize for its playfully inventive, richly embossed poems on a range of ordinary things and situations, and a fiction reading by **Jeff Parker,** an EMU English professor who is currently working on *Ovenman*, a novel whose MySpace page—yes, the book maintains its own page—describes it as a "comic skateboarder/kitchen worker novel with minimal literary value." 7–9:30 p.m.

Oberlin Jazz Septet: Kerrytown Concert House. Oberlin jazz studies professor Peter Dominguez directs this ensemble Oberlin's best jazz students in a program of original compositions and arrangements. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Iowa. *8 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Volver" (Pedro Almodovar, 2006). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

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by John Hinchey

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The Ark

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Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Ark shows are included in the daily Events listings. **Jan. 10, 17, & 31: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). 7:30–10 p.m.

Banfield's

3140 Packard Rd. **971–3300**

This east-side sports bar features live music or a DJ on Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Dancing, no cover. January schedule TBA.

Beaner's Coffee

539 E. Liberty **997–0992**

This campus-area coffeehouse features live music on Wed., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Jan. 3:** No music. **Jan. 10: Jimmy DeHeno.** Country-rock and blues originals and covers by this singer-songwriter, a veteran guitar teacher from Marine City who performs finger-style. **Jan. 17: David Whittaker.** Veteran blues-style singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. **Jan. 24: Sari Brown.** Local singer-songwriter who writes reverent yet unconventional spirituals, late-night traveling songs, and folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility. **Jan. 31: Aaron Matthew.** Acoustic pop-rock singer-songwriter from Detroit.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, occasional early shows, 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Jan. 2: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Jan. 3: Sway.** Ypsilanti pop-rock band. Opening acts are **One More August,** a local alternative rock band, and **Willamena,** a heartland roots-rock quartet from Kalamazoo and Lansing. **Jan. 4: The Dardanelles,** a local indie rock quartet. Opening acts are **The Satin Peaches,** a Commerce, Michigan, rock 'n' roll quartet, and **Porsches of the Autobahn,** a techno-pop quartet from Duesseldorf, Germany. **Jan. 5: Belikos.** Local Latin-spiced hip-hop/funk band fronted by vocalists Aaron Orr and Melissa Shihadeh. Opening acts are the Brighton hip-hop trio **Lost Elementz, Jonny No-Stars** (see Elbow Room), and the Detroit pop-rock band **Big Brother. Jan. 6: The Dirty Americans.** Detroit rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are **Liftpoint** and **Red White and Booze.** See Events. **Jan. 9: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Jan. 10: Ahab.** U-M student rock band. Opening act is **Emergency Care,** a U-M student pop-rock band. **Jan. 11: Starling Electric.** Local retro-psychedelic pop-jam band. Opening acts are **Satin Peaches** (see above) and **The Silent Years,** an emo-rock quartet from Berkley, Michigan. **Jan. 12: Amino Acids.** Local punk-rock band. Opening act is **Wildcatting,** an Ypsilanti metal-rock band featuring former members of Bear vs. Shark. **Jan. 13: Crud.** Straight-ahead rock 'n' roll by this Detroit band led by Sponge vocalist Vinnie Dombrowski. Opening acts are the Detroit heavy-metal band **Overloaded,** the L.A. rock band **Blacklist Union,** and **Throttlebody,** a talented Detroit band featuring members of Solid Frog that plays inventive, heavy-hitting rock 'n' roll. **Jan. 16: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Jan. 17:** TBA. **Jan. 18: Mason Proper.** Offbeat local avant-noise pop-rock band. Opening acts are **Satin Peaches** (see above) and **Pop Project,** a Detroit pop-rock band that features layered vocal harmonies. **Jan. 19:** TBA. **Jan. 20: The Hard Lessons.** Soulful, swaggering guitar-and-organ-driven rock 'n' roll by this nationally acclaimed Detroit trio that's fronted by vocalist Korin Cox. **Jan. 23: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Jan. 24: "Your Hip-Hop."** Local hip-hop MCs TBA. **Jan. 25: Satin Peaches.** *All ages admitted.* See above. Opening acts are a Detroit garage-rock band led by singer-songwriter **Mick Bassett,** the local indie rock band **Rescue,** and **Canada,** a popular local experimental pop-folk septet that features 2 cellists. **Jan. 26: Paper St. Saints.** Royal Oak pop-rock quartet. Opening acts are **Ugly,** a Detroit rock band, and **The Setup,** a U-M student alternative rock band. **Jan. 27: Electric Six.** Detroit guitar-based rock quintet. Opening acts are **Johnny Headband** and **Wolfbait.** See Events. **Jan. 30: "Showcase Night."** See above.

Cafe Felix

204 S. Main **662–8650**

This downtown cafe features live music every other Fri., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Jan. 13 & 27: Deep Blue.** Jazz trio led by drummer John Churchville.

Campus Chapel Coffeehouse

1236 Washtenaw Ct. **668–7421**

Monthly acoustic showcase in the Campus Chapel basement, 8:30–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Free refreshments. January schedule TBA.

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, the complex has 2 street-level clubs, the Millennium Club, which features MTV-style video hits on plasma screens, and Gotham City, which features DJs with house music, Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to all 3 clubs) Sat. only, dancing. Age 18 & older admitted. **Jan. 5** (6–9 p.m.)**: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a new 4-song minidisk, *Clean House,* an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1968 protest classic *For What It's Worth,* and an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." **Jan. 5: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. **Jan. 6: 50 Amp Fuse.** 70s & 80s classic rock by this Detroit band. **Jan. 12** (6–9 p.m.)**: Jim Tate Band.** The veteran honky-tonk duo of singer-guitarist Tate and bassist Chris Goerke features a varied repertoire and resonant vocal harmonies. **Jan. 12: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." **Jan. 13: Killer Flamingos.** See above. **Jan. 19** (6–9 p.m.)**: Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys.** Veteran local country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. **Jan. 19: Noteworthy.** Local funk-soul band. **Jan. 20: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Jan. 26** (6–9 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from early Chuck Berry to Sam & Dave to the Meters. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Jan. 26: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James–style vocalist. **Jan. 27: Killer Flamingos.** See above.

Club Above

215 N. Main **663–7758**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features a variety of live and recorded music Thurs.–Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Also, karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only unless otherwise noted. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **Every Sun.: Mexican Night.** With DJ Miguel or a live Mexican band. **Every Tues.: "She-Bang."** DJ plays 80s & 90s pop dance hits. "Ann Arbor's Lesbian Night." **Every Thurs.: Electronica, House, & Techno.** With DJ Nate of Deep Blue. **Jan. 6: "80s Night."** DJ Saladin plays 80s dance music. A fundraiser for annarboralive.com Internet radio. **Jan. 13: "80s Night."** See above. **Jan. 20: Deep Space Six.** Popular local Grateful Dead cover band. **Jan. 27: "80s Night."** See above.

Club Bedrocks

2900 Jackson Rd. **665–4444**

Lounge in the Best Western Suites. DJs on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: "Mix & Mingle."** DJs spin old school, R&B, reggae, techno, and hip-hop dance records. **Every Sat.: Latino Night.** DJs play Latin dance music.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.) and Tues.–Thurs. and occasional other

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

jazz

Ann Arbor's big band

The Paul Keller Orchestra at eighteen

A long time ago, jazz big bands traveled throughout the land; many of their sidemen were as notorious as movie stars, and the leaders were treated as nobility. The days of peripatetic musical Dukes and Counts are over, and economy of size rules the land. But a few good big bands can still be found in a few cities, mostly on Monday nights, when most clubs are shut and musicians available. Ann Arbor's Monday-night big band, the Paul Keller Orchestra, has finally grown up: it will celebrate its eighteenth birthday this month.

The fifteen-strong unit started out at the now defunct Bird of Paradise on Ashley Street. When the club closed and moved to Main Street, the band followed, but it eventually wound up back in its old location when Susan Chastain opened the Firefly Club in the location vacated by the Bird. Name changes accompanied these moves, but the group is now known as the Paul Keller Orchestra, and the leader also runs a CD label named PKO.

The band's repertoire is extremely eclectic, ranging from the 1920s through today, and it seems to grow by the week, as members either compose new materials or bring in transcriptions of old recordings; indeed, Keller estimates that even after some pruning, the group still has almost 1,000 active charts. Some weeks it seems as if the performances are open rehearsals, as the orchestra tries out completely new material. None of this gets in the way of audience enjoyment, as the stand is filled with experienced musicians who can sight-read anything at the first try. A third of them have been with the PKO since the beginning, and have many years of experience with the top bands in the area; indeed, many are bandleaders themselves. The sections blend exquisitely, but many of the men are first-rate soloists, especially trumpeters Paul Finkbeiner and Brandon Cooper, trombonist Chris Smith, and pianists Jim Dapogny and Duncan McMillan, as well as the saxophonists—Andrew Bishop, Keith Kaminski, Mark Kieme, and Paul Klinger. Their efforts would never succeed without the hard-driving rhythm section headed by master drummer Pete Siers. The saucy vocalist is none other than Firefly owner Susan Chastain. All of this is kept together by the expressive personality and foundational bass work of the leader, Paul Keller.

This year the PKO and the Firefly have teamed up with area high school jazz programs to offer their Jazz Student Outreach Program. Once, twice, or even three times a month, the band hosts a night with student musicians, their teachers, and their parents. The evening opens with an hour set by the PKO, followed by half an hour by the visiting band, and then an hour of fun and games as some of the students sit in with the grown-ups. Keller and friends have found an effective way of supporting high school jazz programs and of assuring that new generations of jazz musicians will be there in the future to keep the orchestra going for years to come.

In addition to its regular Monday night gig, the PKO celebrates its eighteenth anniversary at the Firefly on Friday, January 26.

—Piotr Michalowski

nights (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Jan. 3: Grievous Angel.** Detroit-area country-rock band that covers everyone from Hank Williams to the Grateful Dead and Metallica. **Jan. 4: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Jan. 10: Toppermost.** Local blues-rock quartet. **Jan. 11: Johnny & the Fenders.** Traditional Irish ballads and drinking songs by this Detroit band that includes members of the Diggers. **Jan. 17: Grievous Angel.** See above. **Jan. 18: Dread Pirate Roberts.** Local quartet that covers rock hits from the 90s to today. **Jan. 24: Mossy Moran.** See above. **Jan. 25: Todd Deatherage.** Recently transplanted to Ann Arbor from New York City, Deatherage is a country-rock singer-songwriter originally from Dallas whom the *Village Voice* dubbed a "honky-tonk Elliott Smith."

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **Jan. 5: Muruga's Global Village Ceremonial Band.** Local sextet led by percussionist Muruga Booker that performs an upbeat blend of rock, worldbeat, hip-hop, folk, jazz, and more. With vocalist Shakti, local keyboardist Martin Simmons, electric violinist Owen Balduf, bassist Richard Smith, and synthesizer player and Zen drummer Ken Kozora. **Jan. 6: Chris Bathgate,** a local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs in a variety of moods. **Jan. 12: Jimmy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies.** Local roots-rock quartet led by former Starlight Drifters singer-guitarist Mack whose repertoire includes originals and rockabilly, early rock 'n'roll, western swing, and hillbilly bop covers. **Jan. 13: Luke Sayers & the Last to Know.** The former bassist for the Ferndale folk-rock band Tangerine Trousers, Sayers has emerged in his own right as a talented singer-songwriter whose music draws on blues, jazz, country, and folk to create contemporary songs with a sharp emotional bite. His band, the Last to Know, is a quartet that includes other members of the Trousers. **Jan. 19: Dale Osborn.** Leo Kottke–style singer-guitarist from Chelsea who performs tasty covers and originals. **Jan. 20: S Apostrophe.** Catchy college rock by this group of U-M grad students and professors that recently released its debut CD, *I Was Born in the Dollar Store*. **Jan. 26: Bates & Foote.** Lansing roots music duo. **Jan. 27:** No music.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 28: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-30s swing and 40s R&B.

Dreamland Theater

44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This Depot Town theater features occasional live music Thurs. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. Closed in January.

The Earle

121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.–Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Robert Warren, and a drummer TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti **483–6374**

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "House Night."** With DJ Kriss. **Every Tues.: "Dance Night."** With DJ Conner. **Every Wed.: Open Mike Jam.** All musicians invited. **Jan. 5: 1 Joint Lid.** Detroit psychedelic metal quartet. Opening acts are the indie rock band **Renovaudio,** the Detroit synth pop duo **The Debt,** the Jackson emo-rock quartet **Farwell,** and the Toledo powerpop quartet **Indy United. Jan. 6: Patrick Elkins.** Ypsilanti-based pop-folk singer-songwriter. Opening acts are the local electro-pop singer-songwriter **Charlie Slick,** the horn-driven Detroit noise band **Odd Clouds,** the Akron experimental punk band **Swell Bean,** and **Simon Newcomb,** an Ypsilanti band led by composer Travis Bursik whose eclectic repertoire ranges from experimental noise to a cappella tunes. **Jan. 12: Jonny No-Stars.** Local psychedelic rock band. Opening acts are the Ypsilanti psychedelic rock band **Jealous Type,** the local indie rock sextet **Bear Mountain Picnic,** and **The Beauty Fire,** a Detroit experimental ambient rock band fronted by vocalist Jordan Davis. **Jan. 13: Mazinga.** Veteran Ypsilanti band that plays rough, raw, Detroit-style rock 'n' roll. Opening acts are the Lansing-area punk-rock quartet **The Eastern Block,** the rock band **Accidentally on Purpose,** and another band TBA. **Jan. 18: "Mofo Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **Jan 19: The Fire Fabulon & Friends.** This performance art and circus sideshow troupe from Warren calls itself an "esoteric and eclectic band of erudite iconoclasts." **Jan. 20: David Grammer & the Periods.** Indie garage band from Westland. Opening acts are the Kalamazoo alternative-rock quartet **Fortune's Fool,** the Adrian alternative-rock garage band **Alpine Tanker 11,** and the Detroit punk-rock quartet **Nine Years Away. Jan. 26: Afro Zombies.** Howell punk band. Opening acts are the Flint rock band **Reducer 74,** the local jam-rock band **Seahorse Napkin Force,** and **The Maningas. Jan. 27: Tone and Niche.** Detroit indie pop-rock quintet fronted by singer-guitarist Anthony Retka and singer-violinist Nicole Varga. Opening acts are **Todd Deatherage** (see Conor O'Neill's), Ypsilanti folk-style indie singer-songwriter **Annie Palmer,** the local experimental ambient quintet **Perhapsy,** the Detroit indie rock band **The Low Hello,** the Ypsilanti acoustic pop-rock trio **The Bitter Inks,** and **The 77s,** an Ypsilanti band formerly known as Los Drogas that plays loud, raucous, melodic, bluesy, surf-guitar rockabilly. Also, an **art show.**

The Firefly Club

207 S. Ashley **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club that was recently named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press*. Live jazz Mon., Tues.–Thurs., 8 p.m.–midnight; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; & Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., Fri., & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** *See review, p. 88.* Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed.: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. **Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 50s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). **Jan. 2:** Closed. **Jan. 5: Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Trio.** This local trio led by guitar virtuoso Summers plays the music of Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Lenny Breau. With guitarist Chris Moyer and bassist Dave Sharp. **Jan. 6: Los Gatos.** See above. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD. **Jan. 9: Aaron Jones.** Jazz trio led by Dearborn guitarist Jones, who tonight celebrates the release of his new CD, *Window to the World*. Opening act is **Ellery. Jan. 12: "Jazz and More Showcase."** Various young jazz ensembles TBA each play a set. **Jan. 13: The Bobby Streng Saxemble.** Jazz standards and originals by this ensemble led by U-M music student Streng that features 5 saxophones and a rhythm section. Tonight's show is recorded for a live CD. **Jan. 16: "Cabaret."** Performers TBA. **Jan. 19: Eldar.** Jazz ensemble led by piano prodigy Eldar Djangirov. See Events. 9 & 11 p.m. **Jan. 20: Harper:** Blues-rock band led by singer-songwriter Peter Harper. See Events. **Jan. 23:** Closed. **Jan. 26: Paul Keller Orchestra.** See above. Tonight the band celebrates its 18th anniversary. **Jan. 27: Glenn Tucker Quintet.** Detroit jazz ensemble led by pianist Tuck-

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January 26 FRIDAY 6:30PM
RFD BOYS KIYOSHI NAGATA ENSEMBLE
JACKIE GREENE MARTHA WAINWRIGHT
RUFUS WAINWRIGHT
GANDALF MURPHY AND THE SLAMBOVIAN CIRCUS OF DREAMS
EMBER SWIFT MILLISH EMCEE: JEFF DANIELS

30TH ANN ARBOR FOLK FESTIVAL
at hill auditorium

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January 27 SATURDAY 6:30PM
RFD BOYS BILL STAINES TERRI HENDRIX&LLOYD MAINES
MOUNTAIN HEART OVER THE RHINE
DAISY MAY PAUL THORN EMCEE: JEFF DANIELS
JOHN PRINE

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er. **Jan. 30: Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by an all-star ensemble led by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native. With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, Detroit bassist Tim Flood, and Los Gatos drummer Pete Siers.

Good Time Charley's

1140 South University 668–8411

This new club upstairs at Good Time Charley's restaurant features DJs Wed.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed.: "Wild Out Wednesdays."** Old-school and new-school hits with DJ Graffiti and DJ C-4. **Every Thurs.: "Foundation."** DJs Zuma Hi-Fi and Selector Billy the Kid play dancehall, roots reggae, soca, calypso, hip-hop, and R&B records. **Every Fri.: TGIF.** DJ Scotty plays music requested by the audience. **Every Sat.: Top 40.** With DJs TBA.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron 623–2070

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live jazz Wed.–Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. **Every Tues.: "Downtown Tempo to Dance."** House & techno music with DJ Aamio. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Every Fri: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **Jan. 6: Dave Sharp Quartet.** Straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. **Jan. 13: The Alligators.** R&B and blues band from Detroit. **Jan. 20: Dave Sharp Quartet.** See above. **Jan. 27: Odessa Harris.** See Melange.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. 769–9800

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features country bands on Fri. and a DJ on Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Sat: "Old School."** DJ Royce plays jazz and Motown dance records. **Jan. 5: Arizona Sun.** Detroit country band. **Jan. 12: Steele Canyon.** Classic country by this suburban Detroit band. **Jan. 19: Arizona Sun.** See above. **Jan. 26: Grievous Angel.** See Conor O'Neill's.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., & Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo piano by **Tim Knapp** (Tues.–Thurs., Sat., & Sun.) and **Adam Riccinto** (Fri.), 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **Jan. 2–4: Herbie Russ.** Pop standards by this solo saxophonist. **Jan. 5 & 6: Joyride.** Popular Flint dance band. **Jan. 9–11: Destiny.** Jackson-area band that plays Latin dance pop. **Jan. 12 & 13: Nite Flight.** Veteran local reggae and calypso band. **Jan. 16–18: David Hamilton.** Light pop by this singer-guitarist, who fleshes out his sound with a synthesizer. **Jan. 19 & 20: Scoot Magoo.** Allen Park rock 'n' roll quintet. **Jan. 23 & 24: Al Hill & the Love Butlers.** Soulful swing, New Orleans–style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this veteran local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. **Jan. 26 & 27: Rumpelstiltskin.** Motown and other classic dance pop by this popular 8-piece Las Vegas–style show band. **Jan. 30 & 31: Soulstice.** Hard-driving dance band from East Lansing.

The Halfass

Church St. entrance to East Quad 764–8558

Informal student-dominated cafe, formerly known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 19: The Salt Miners.** Folk bluegrass quintet from Oak Park. Opening acts are **Misty Lyn & the Big Beautiful,** a new local country-pop band led by singer-songwriter Lyn, and **Frontier Ruckus,** an experimental bluegrass band from Orion. **Jan. 27: The Satin Peaches.** See Blind Pig.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764–7544

Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. Dancing, no cover. **Jan. 25: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. 8–10 p.m. Remainder of January schedule TBA.

The Killer Flamingos perform rock 'n' roll covers and originals at the Cavern Club Jan. 5.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. 623–1443

This jazz lounge features live music Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m.; Thurs., 10:30 p.m.–2 a.m.; and Fri. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Fri. & Sat. after 10:30 p.m. only), dancing. The club also hosts Improv Inferno (see Events listings) Thurs., 8–10:30 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 8–9:30 p.m.; & Sun., 8–11:30 p.m. **Every Wed.: Open Jam.** All musicians invited. Hosted by the local blues band **Bill Lewis & Cold Sweat. Every Thurs.: The Groove-Matist.** Retro, Top 40, and hip-hop dance party with DJ Mechial White. **Every Sat.: "Club Night."** Guest DJs TBA spin dance records. **Jan. 5: The Groove-Matist.** See above. **Jan. 12: Lucas Paul Band.** See Melange. **Jan. 19: A.G.B.** Local trio that plays a high-energy mix of funk, rock, and jam. **Jan. 26: Good Gravy.** R&B band from Bloomfield Hills.

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main 222–0202

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music or DJs Wed.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Wed.: "House & Funk."** With DJ Jacob Alexander. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Every Fri: Jamie Register Project.** Motownesque soul music by a band led by local singer-bassist Register. **Jan. 6: Blackman & Arnold.** Gypsy jazz by a quartet led by guitarists Sean Blackman and John Arnold. **Jan. 13: Odessa Harris Trio.** This dynamic Detroit vocalist, who sings bluesy jazz in the style of Dinah Washington, is backed by a jazz trio. **Jan. 20: Kris Kurzawa Quartet.** Local quintet that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals. **Jan. 27: Blackman & Arnold.** See above.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty 994–5436

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Sun.: "Vision Sunday."** Guest DJs spin house and techno records. **Every Mon.: "Factory."** DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, and synth pop records. **Every Thurs.: "College Night."** DJ Binzo spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** With DJ Jace spinning high-energy dance tunes in the main room and, in the downstairs Red Room, DJ Mark playing retro music videos and DJ John G spinning Top 40 records. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** In the main room DJ Binzo plays Top 40 hip-hop and dance music, and in the Red Room a variety of Top 40 music videos.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty 662–9291

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Jan. 7: Jack Spack.** Acoustic singer-songwriter from Ypsilanti who writes heartfelt, charmingly melodic songs about the ups and downs of everyday life. **Jan. 14: Mountain Top Trio.** Detroit acoustic string trio that plays bluegrass, jazz, and original tunes. **Jan. 21: Jim Roll Band.** Local band led by Roll, a nationally prominent local singer-songwriter known for his barbed alt-country-flavored folk-rock ballads and love songs. **Jan. 28: Jud Branam & Kevin Brown.** These 2 singer-songwriters from the local alt-country band Corndaddy are joined by local multi-instrumental string virtuoso **David Mosher.**

Oz

210 S. Fifth Ave. 222–4770

Nightclub located in the former Ann Arbor Theater. DJs or live music Tues. & Wed., 8 p.m.–2 a.m.; Thurs.–Sat., 8 p.m.–4 a.m.; & occasional Sun., 6 p.m.–midnight. Cover after 11 p.m., dancing. **Every Wed.: Gay Night.** With DJs TBA. **Every Thurs.: Top 40 Night.** With DJ Fares. **Every Fri.: International Night.** Arabic, Indian, and hip-hop music with DJ Fares. Also, a belly dancing show at midnight. **Every Sat.: Hip-Hop and Old Skool.** With DJ Fares.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard 662–8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Jan. 2: "Songwriters Open Stage."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Jan. 9: "Anything Goes Open Stage."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Jan. 12: "Local Color Music Showcase."** Performers TBA. **Jan. 16: "Acoustic Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Dave Guimond. **Jan. 23: "AASC Blues Highway 101."** Mickey Richard and Sue Nordman host a mostly acoustic blues jam session. All musicians invited. **Jan. 26: "Local Color Music Showcase."** See above.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church 996–2747

This campus-area club features DJs Mon. & Wed.–Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon.: DJ Fro.** DJ spins dance records. **Every Wed.: DJ Big Daddie.** DJ spins dance records. **Every Thurs.: "Jammin' DJs."** DJs TBA play dance music. **Every Fri. & Sat.: DJ Big Daddie.** See above.

Rush Street

314 S. Main 913–0330

The bar in this new downtown restaurant features DJs Thurs. and live music Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Every Thurs.: Mechial White.** DJ plays an assortment of contemporary music. **Every Sat.:** Live music TBA.

Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave. 302–3687

This dinner club features DJs Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m., playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only. **Every Sat.: "Hip-Hop and House Night."** With DJ Jason "J Smooth" Doliveck.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482–5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern hosts Monday open mikes, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** Hosted by the Martindales singer-guitarist Brian Brickley.

Tap Room Annex

205 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 487–5544

This tavern next door to the Tap Room features live acoustic music Thurs. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; Fri., 9–11 p.m.; and Sun., 7–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. **Every Wed.: Spencer Michaud.** Local acoustic pop singer-songwriter. With different weekly guests TBA. **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All bands invited. **Jan. 5: John Latini & Friends.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, who is joined by different guest musicians each week. Tonight's guests are **Tracy Mack** (see below) and **Spencer Michaud,** a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. **Jan. 6:** TBA. **Jan. 7: J-Qube.** Local jazz-rock-funk fusion trio led by guitarist Jake Reichbart and featuring former Smokestack members Jacob Chmara and Dan Eichinger. **Jan. 12: John Latini & Friends.** See above. Tonight's guests are **Dan Gennaoui,** a singer-songwriter recently transplanted from New York, and **Whit Hill,** a talented local neobeatnik country-folk singer-songwriter. **Jan. 13: The Martindales.** See above. **Jan. 14: Fourth Wish.** Ballads and blues standards and oddities by this local jazz quartet. Members are winds player Jon Margerum-Leys, keyboardist Tyler Driskill, bassist Rich Rickman, and percussionist Kaamran Hafeez. **Jan. 19: John Latini & Friends.** See above. Tonight's guests are **The Copycats,** a local vintage rock quartet, and local singer-songwriter **Steve Thompson. Jan. 20: Tracy Mack.** Acoustic folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 21: Saline Big Band.** This popular 17-member ensemble performs big band favorites, including pop, swing, and Latin music. **Jan. 26: John Latini & Friends.** See above. Tonight's guests are **Eric Kelly,** a versatile local folk- and country-rock singer-songwriter, and **Gannon Alexander,** the frontman of the local acoustic roots music trio Uses for Wood. **Jan. 27: Chris Canas & the Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by Canas, a young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist. **Jan. 28: Fourth Wish.** See above.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483–4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features a jam session on Mon., karaoke on Tues., DJs on Wed., and dance bands Thurs.–Sat., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, poker tournaments, Sun., 7 & 10 p.m. Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Every Fri.** (6–9 p.m.)**: Rob Moses.** Local solo pianist. **Every Sun.: Local Music Night.** Bands TBA. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** All musicians invited. Hosted by the local pop-folk jam band City Goat. **Jan. 5: The Disregarded.** Self-styled "dirt-hop" quartet from Oakville whose music blends American roots music with urban rap, gospel-tinged choruses, and rock 'n' roll energy. Opening acts are the Detroit alternative rock bands **Prospect** and **Philo. Jan. 6: The Off Ramps.** Plymouth postpunk power-pop band. Opening acts are **Whitey Morgan & the Waycross, Georgia, Farm Boys,** a Detroit retro outlaw honky-tonk band, and **Porchsleeper,** a local hillbilly-punk band. **Jan. 12: Back Forty.** Local acoustic string quartet that plays twangy roots-folk music fused with elements of jazz and rock. Opening act is **The Macpodz,** an immensely popular local soul-rock jam band. **Jan. 13: The Howling Diablos.** Wild-humored Detroit blues and rock 'n' roll band. **Jan. 19: Hullabaloo.** Local quintet that plays ska and 80s-style pop. Opening act is **Few of the Many,** a local rock band. **Jan. 20: Counter Cosby.** Local band that plays sarcastic, goofy, prog-rock metal. Opening acts are **Narwhals Collide,** an Ypsilanti band that calls its music "freedom rock dancecore," and **Redlight Chamber Choir,** a local band that plays postrock instrumentals accompanied by video projections. **Jan. 26: Big Brother.** Detroit pop-rock band. Opening acts are **Jesse Passage,** an acoustic rock singer-songwriter from Dearborn, and **Mumble,** a local art-rock quartet. **Jan. 27: Stash.** Detroit pop-reggae jam band. Opening act is **Top Hat & Company,** a Detroit reggae-rock band. ■

Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

Recipe 4 Fun: two people, mildly or wildly fit, educated, and witty. Sprinkle with curiosity, adventure, and excitement. Add daring, dancing, and delight as desired. Stir until sublime, simmer 'til steamy. Top with chiles, chocolate, and cinnamon. Missing ingredient: 1 delicious 48–58-ish SM. ☎5673✍

Begin your new year with magic. Share wonderful new life with creative, enchanting, pretty woman. Seeking intelligent SWPM, 45 plus, for joy, adventure, romance, and more. ☎5672✍

SWPF, young 50s, NS, fit, fun, mostly happy, down to earth. Likes to travel. ISO similar SWPM, 45–60. ☎5671✍

Intelligent foreign-born American, Ph.D., semiretired, **SWF,** 5'2", NS, in her 60s ISO a very good, healthy gentleman, 60–70. ☎5668✍

SWPF, 43, grounded, petite, blonde. Enjoys weekend getaways, films, and friends. HSV positive. Seeking kind, optimistic S/DPM. ☎5670✍

Beautiful blonde, creative, outgoing, fun, NS, seeks calm, competent, caring, and articulate man. Love the outdoors, camping, good music, theater, conversation. 43–53. ☎5663✍

Intelligent **SBF,** 5'7", NS, enjoy trips, companionship ISO like-minded SM, 60-plus, with integrity and laughter in his heart, for friendship leading to LTR. ☎5662✍

Attractive brunette, **W,** widow, youthful 60s, NS, Italian/American with many interests ISO relationship/companionship. with SWM, age 58–70. ☎5656✍

Vegan woman, 39, seeking vegan/vegetarian man, age 30–50. Do you enjoy dinner parties, yoga, foreign films, and ethnic foods? Write back! ☎5660✍

Accomplished **SWF,** 49, seeks gentlemanly, articulate, and successful SWM for companionship. Please, only single men, 40-plus and drug- and STD-free. ☎5659✍

Crunching leaves, watching snowflakes, picking tulips, picnicking by the river. **SWPF,** late 50s, ISO SWPM to share delights of the seasons and more. ☎5648✍

Liberal, slender, smart, fit, educated good woman ISO a very good man, 45–55. ☎5624✍

Pretty nature lover, 5'7", 132 lbs., long curly hair, blue eyes. Into yoga, music, health, laughing, and more. Loyal, honest, and giving. ISO the same, 46–53. ☎5630✍

Men Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

SWM, new to AA area, physically fit, NS, ND, no drugs. If you are looking for a faithful and loyal man to care for you, we should meet. Wide range of interests and can be very accommodating to your interests also. Seeking fit SWF, 30–45. ☎5666✍

Bright, bearded, boyish, monogamous **SWM,** 59, professional, fond of food, film, cats, chats, cuddling, walks, seeks SF for long-term romance, travel, fun. ☎5674✍

Time for a change? **SWPM,** 49, 5'8", fit, introspective, with no dependents, seeking fit SWPF, 35–50, who is flexible, fun, and curious. ☎5675✍

SWM, 46, looking for Miss Right for the New Year, 30–50, who likes going out to eat, going to movies, and spending time together. ☎5597✍

I'm just a boy looking for a girl, a best friend, a creative, uninhibited lover, and a lot of laughs. 40s, 145 lbs., 5'9". ☎5667✍

Energetic, romantic **SM,** 57, 5'6", 165 lbs. No dependents, educated, semiretired, homeowner, likes fitness, travel, yoga. ISO SF, NS, 40s–50s, for LTR. ☎5669✍

DWM, 77, 5'8", 150 lbs., handsome. Enjoys dance, travel, cards, and walks. NS, ND, emotionally and financially fit, from large family. Seeks LTR. ☎5665✍

SWM gentleman, 50, nonsmoker, nondrinker, 5'11" tall, physically fit, financially secure, sincere, honest, very happy and social, lots of fun, very active, enjoys weightlifting, aerobics, dancing, swimming, cycling, cooking, outdoors, and making new friends. In search of single female, 35–55, very slim, petite, great attitude with a big smile for a great long-term relationship. ☎5657✍

21 things you want in a lover—the song describes me well. **SWM,** 46, healthy, happy, and a Green Builder. Hope to meet a fun, active SF to share life with. ☎5655✍

One-woman **SWM,** 45, seeks resilient, outdoor/indoor, independent/dependent, partially untamed, creative, fun, nontypical female. Warning: I have a son. ☎5649✍

DWPM. Tall, slim, fit. Likes to laugh, travel, hike, read. Enjoys movies, plays, conversation, nature, sports. ISO woman, 48–57, with similar and additional interests. Will we make each other smile? ☎5628✍

SWM, physically fit, NS, intelligent, honest, accommodating. Enjoys books, movies, travel. ISO similar SWF, compatible, attractive, approximately 45–60. ☎2918✍

DWM, 54, 5'9", 150 lbs., no children, Ph.D: scientist/farmer in conservation/ecology. ISO woman scientist for rural life, international travel, romance. ☎4486✍

Educated, fit **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39–47, who is positive on relationships. ☎3031✍

Friendships

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

Looking for friendly people in their 40s to start a **card group**—Euchre, Pinochle, or other. ☎5658✍

Seeking other **vegans/vegetarians** in Ann Arbor area. Let's plan a vegan holiday! Veg. female new to Ann Arbor, seeking vegan and vegetarian male and female friends. ☎5661✍

Women Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

PERSONAL CALL
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18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.

Men Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

General Personals

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
You don't have to ski to be a member! The AASC is a "4 season" social and sports club for singles & couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 400 members! Upcoming events: **1/4 General Meeting at Cobblestone Farm; 1/13 Late New Year's Eve Party; 1/18 General Meeting/Dance at Cobblestone Farm; and 1/27 Night Out on the Town. CHECK OUR WEBSITE www.a2skiclub.org FOR UPCOMING X-COUNTRY AND DOWNHILL SKI TRIPS.**

Keep in touch with the town!

Every Friday at 8:35 a.m. on WAAM 1600AM, listen for the latest events reviews from WAAM's Lucy Ann Lance and the Ann Arbor Observer's Amy Retherford. Find out what's going on around your town!

Brought to you by:

Talk Radio 1600 WAAM

Ann Arbor Observer

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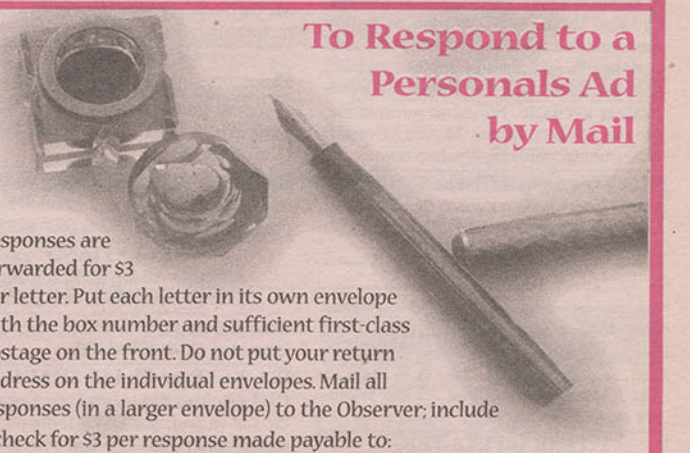
Follow the simple directions and you will be able to hear more about the people whose ads interest you, or you can browse ads by category. With one call, you can leave as many messages as you like. You may call anytime, 24 hours a day. Voice greetings are valid only for the month they appear in print.

You must be 18 or older.
Touch-Tone phones only. $1.95 a minute.

Or to Respond by Phone Using a Credit Card, Call 1·888·718·4827



To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail

Responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes. Mail all responses (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to:

Ann Arbor Observer · 201 Catherine · Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Place your FREE Ann Arbor Observer Personals Ad Today!

Here's what you do:

Choose the most convenient method to submit your ad . . .

- ***E-MAIL:*** classifieds@arborweb.com
- ***FAX:*** (734) 769–3375
- ***ON-LINE:*** www.arborweb.com
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Ann Arbor Observer Personals
201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Send us the information . . .

- Your ad copy, 39 characters per line, typed or neatly printed.
- Your name, address, and daytime phone.
- Payment (by check, money order, or Visa/MasterCard).

The first 4 lines are FREE!

For singles who use the Personals Call voice-mail system, additional lines are $7 each. Ads that indicate a preference for letters, or those under the 'General' heading, cost $7 per line for the entire ad.

Observer Personals Ads are also posted on
www.arborweb.com
Please call with any questions or comments:
(734) 769–3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

Classifieds

Employment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

Experienced Broach O.D. Grinder. Must have own tools. Top pay, plus benefits. (734) 722–9221.

FULL-TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT to handle receptionist and circulation duties. Are you personable, efficient, and a whiz in an office? Can you answer ten phone lines at once with a smile? Send your resume and letter to: J. Morgan, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. No phone calls, please.

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

For sale: **Yamaha upright piano and bench** in ebony. Great condition and excellent sound. $3,200. Call (734) 769–3175. Ask for Vikki.

English Bulldog: I currently have two beautiful AKC male and female English bulldog puppies available with champion bloodlines, health certificates, wormings, updated shots, small baggie of puppy food, and full AKC registrations and one-year health guarantee. Puppies available now are $550 each for Xmas. Viewable pictures available. For more information, please contact James Moore. E-mail: jamesmoore_ebulldog@yahoo.com.

"The Free Amigos Guitar:" Up to $200 value! Yours with purchase of 15 classes! Only at Oz's Music, 1920 Packard, (734) 662–8283.

Entertainment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

TERRABELLA TRIO
Elegant music featuring flute, violin, and cello. Call (734) 996–0303.

★ CLASSICAL HARP MUSIC ★
Live harp music for any occasion.
Deborah Gabrion, (734) 417–6969.

Classical/Flamenco Guitar—Romantic, energetic, professional. (734) 975–0678.

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Professional woodwind quintet for weddings, receptions, parties, etc. Classical to popular music. (734) 994–5457.

BEST in Classical and Jazz Piano
TAD WEED is available for your special events. Solo, duo, or trio. (734) 276–7992. TADWEED.com.

DJ for weddings and special occasions. A huge variety of music presented with TASTE and ELEGANCE. Over 25 years' experience. Reasonable rates. (734) 572–9535.

Live harp music for any occasion. Harp doctorate, U-M. Flute and harp duo also available. Laurel, 663–9292/663–0087.

Mariah's Amazing Puppets
Kids love puppet shows! Captivating, entertaining. Call (734) 657–4652.
www.amazingpuppetshows.com

★ HAVE HARP ★ WILL TRAVEL ★
Quality Work at Reasonable Rates
Weddings, Receptions, Parties
University of Michigan Grad
Rochelle (734) 475–1660
Specializing in Outdoor Weddings

Do your own show at Oz's environment! Webcast/recording options. (734) 476–5153.

Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD for referrals to qualified, professional piano teachers.
All levels and ages, 665–5346.

PIANO LESSONS, ALL AGES
Prof. piano teacher, U-M Music School grad. Member of Piano Teachers Guild. Convenient west-side location. Mary Ann McCulloch, (734) 769–7646. E-mail mcpianolady@aol.com.

LEARN ARABIC
Elementary through college. (734) 623–2061.

Classical guitar lessons. Former adjunct professor at U-M. Matthew Mischakoff. (734) 429–3303.

Guitar, bass, drum, piano, flute, sax, clarinet, trumpet, sequencing, and more! **OzMusic.com,** 1920 Packard, (734) 662–8283.

VOICE • PIANO
All ages • All Levels Instruction
Gini Robison, (734) 487–2691.

Flute Lessons: all levels. Former college instructor. (734) 429–1389.

Old West Side **GLASS SHACK STUDIO** offering mosaic classes. Come join the fun in laidback OWS farmhouse. Art studio/gallery/jewelry and mosaic glass and supplies available. (Ongoing book drive in support of africanlibraryproject.org—used books needed!) Call for shop hours/class schedule: (734) 904–4663.

★ MOSAIC CLASSES ★ Art studio environment, beginners and advanced. Gift certificates. Mosaic Sphere Studio, (734) 769–8478, classes@mosaicsphere.com, www.mosaicsphere.com.

CLASSICAL GUITAR LESSONS. Segovia approach. Ted Badgerow, 572–8533.

Cello lessons offered for adults and children by exp'd. prof. teacher and cellist with master's in cello performance. Emily: epkies@aol.com, (734) 332–0868.

You can sing!
Holistic voice lessons. Strengthen voice, gain confidence. All levels and styles welcome. Jesse Richards, N.A.T.S.
(734) 995–2972

PIANO LESSONS—Prof. musician on west side. U-M School of Music grad degree. Reasonable fee and flexible arrangements. Marian Patin, 761–7384.

Math maid: Cleaning up your math messes. Math tutoring for all ages. 223–2445.

Yoga teacher certification/Yoga therapy. 665–7801.

HAPPY FEET? Learn to tap dance at Swing City Dance Studio. (734) 668–7782.

Strum and drum with Oz. Free introductory class if you call (734) 476–5153 by 1/26/07.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

Climate Control Indoor Storage
490 S. Maple, Ann Arbor. Next to Kroger. 662–5262. www.ccindoorstorage.com.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 107? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, January 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–4950; e-mail: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

Voted Best Massage in Ann Arbor. Open 7 days/wk. Relax Station. (734) 623–1951.

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

COMPUTER SUPPORT
Setup & support, home & small business. Call Tom, (734) 662–3537 or 929–0875.

Wedding Invitations/Announcements
Anniversaries • Graduations
Bat/Bar Mitzvahs
Family celebrations • Birth announcements
Georgetown Gifts, 971–1068. 4-day service.
www.georgetowngifts.com

Accurate Psychic/Channel/Medium: Personal and phone readings. Parties, events, gift certificates. Call Nanci Rose Gerler, Crystal Clear Expressions, (734) 996–8799.

ART AND ANTIQUE APPRAISALS
Insurance and estate tax valuations on your personal property by qualified appraiser. Please call:
Jan Hack, (734) 663–5310.

★ Construction Debris—Recycled ★
Roofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc.
TRC HAULING, 665–6895

Freelance editor/writer available for manuscript editing, proofreading, research, writing projects, web content development. Joel Seguine, seguinecom@ameritech.net, (734) 730–3410.

MACINTOSH computer repair—in your home. Skilled and dependable. Call (734) 481–0343.

BIG GUY for hire. Moving and labor services. We offer professional labor only to people who prefer to move themselves. Please call (313) 414–0124 or visit **www.BIGGUYforhire.com.**

Computer/network setup and lessons
www.anhyzer.com (734) 649–1307

Music Environment birthday celebrations. Music parties customized by YOU after free consultation with Oz. (734) 476–5153.

Business Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

The Traveling Bartender, LLC
Liquid Catering & Event Planning
Take your event to the next level with creative concepts & cocktails.
Contact John, (734) 846–6355, john@thetravelingbartender.com

Thomas' Electrical ★ Licensed & Insured
Home safety installation • Free estimates
(734) 788–6856. Bus. (734) 710–0716
Fax, phone, cable, alarms, smoke detectors, security camera, fire alarms, speakers, electrical outlets, intercoms, gas detectors, fire extinguishers.

Health

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

SANDYA—Spiritual Counseling, Rapid Healing, & Activation. (734) 913–9670.

Seeking a fabulous therapeutic massage? $35/hr. for students, $40/hr. for nonstudents. Call Rachel, CMT, (734) 717–6777. By appt. only.

Affordable Massage for Every Body: Deep tissue, sports, pregnancy, injury rehab, on-site/event. Nationally certified, 12 years' exp. Clinic on west side. Open 6 days. Call **Carolann@Relax&Renew.** (734) 368–2138.

Supportive psychotherapy for people of all ages. Licensed social worker and substance abuse counselor accepts Blue Cross and private pay arrangements. (734) 255–3842. Rachel M. Webster, LMSW.

★ Healthy Lifestyles ★
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Career/Life Coaching
Coaching/Therapist Supervision
Counseling for Relationship Issues
Adjustment/Racial Issues
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Philosophical Counseling. Life coaching; rational choices for a meaningful life. Kate Mehuron, Ph.D., (734) 945–8841, www.philosophypractice.com, kmehuron@yahoo.com.

Start your New Year healthy with **fresh, clean, and clear water** by installing a whole-house water treatment system. **Municipal water only.** Starting at $1,800 installed. Call Rob, (734) 368–0114, Robert@HelpMeCLE.com.

Home

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 10.

Professional Premium Handyman Plus
Is something broken or not working right? Does it bother you? Caring, patient, personalized service. Licensed & insured. Degreed engineer. Since 1995, 90,000 repairs/improvements made. Call Rob, 368–0114. Robert@HelpMeCLE.com.

★ Household Debris—Recycled ★
Appliances, furniture, brush, and misc.
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Pet Care When You Can't Be There
Kristina Taylor
(734) 747–8259

HOUSESITTER. Pets and plants, too. Short- and long-term. (734) 646–0803.

Retired man Jim. Light hauling, yard work, and junk removal. 330–1670.

★ A2 Pet Solutions ★ Professional pet sitting, dog walking, dog park trips. Compassionate. Insured. www.a2pet.com. 678–4771.

Burlygirl Residential Cleaning
Reliable, good service with reasonable rates. Fully bonded and insured.
(734) 383–2298

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Neighborhood Painters
Local Company
Interior and Exterior
Deck power washing, staining
Call (734) 276–7464

PAINTER FROM THE U.P.
Ten years' experience in Ann Arbor. Good references. Also, basement wall repair. Call Brian (734) 651–2440.

Dependable, trustworthy person to do your housecleaning. (734) 461–9569.

★★★ Housecleaning ★★★
Experienced, lots of references. Great equipment! Call for appointments. Laura, (248) 343–4760.

Beautiful custom-made slipcovers.
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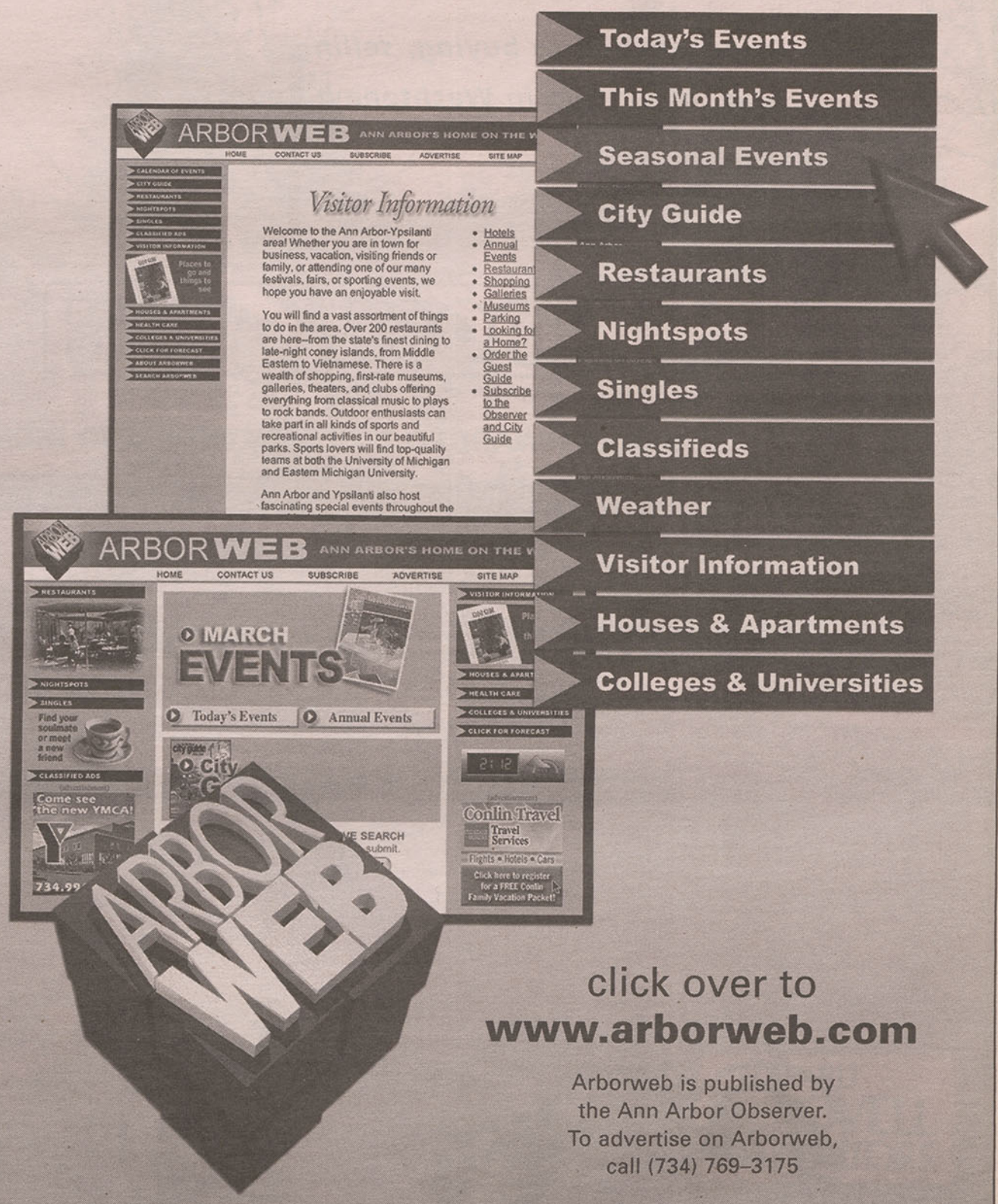
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On the Cover: Gracefully renovated Ann Arbor Hills home built in 1948 on lovely half-acre lot. Four bedrooms, three baths, and a spectacular kitchen with stainless appliances, granite counters, and alder cabinets. Other features include a large family room with fireplace, ash hardwood floors throughout the first floor, French doors in most first-floor rooms that open to the backyard, and a luxurious master suite with two walk-in closets and a ceramic tile and granite bath. Includes attached three-car garage with elevator to the kitchen. $1,300,000. Carolyn Lepard, Edward Surovell Realtors. (734) 663-9202.

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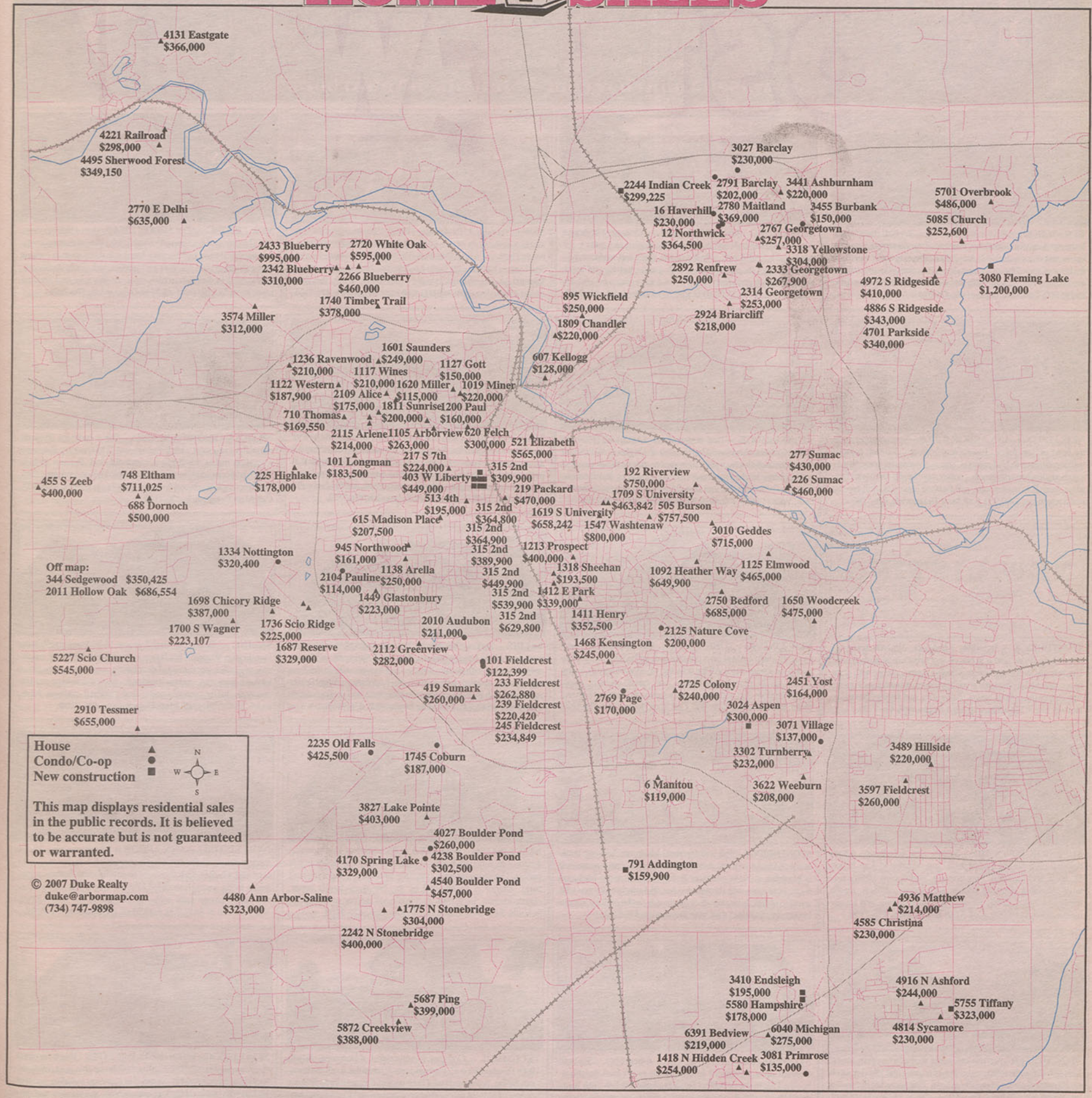

Despite the slack real estate market, affordable homes are harder than ever to find in the Ann Arbor school district. Through November, just twenty-four existing single-family homes sold for less than $150,000, compared to thirty-five that sold in that price range during the first eleven months of 2005. Looking back even farther, forty-five were sold in the same period in 2003, when the market was peaking.

The most affordable neighborhood remains Arbor Oaks, which lies south of I-94 and east of Stone School Road in the Bryant Elementary School neighborhood. So far this year, six single-family homes changed hands there for less than $150,000. Two sold for just $108 per square foot of living space. For comparison, the median price per square foot (half cost less, half cost more) for the Ann Arbor school district was recently calculated at $168.

One buyer paid just $85 per square foot for a three-bedroom single-family home on the northwest side of town. In a sale noted on this month's map, 1620 Miller, in the Westridge subdivision just west of Newport Road, included 1,346 square feet of living space and sold for just $115,000. The median sale price in this part of town (the Wines Elementary School area) was recently clocked at $184 per square foot.

The selling price of $115,000 was negotiated after 1620 Miller failed to attract a buyer during months on the market at higher prices, according to Barbara Paup, a Realtor with Johnson & Associates Realty. Paup says that the property went through foreclosure, and that the bank "pretty much set the price." Originally, the bank was asking $183,750—and even at that price, it would have lost money. According to the City of Ann Arbor website, the bank's agent paid $198,211 for the property at the sheriff's sale in September 2005.

—Kevin Duke

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KING SCHOOL AREA – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home represents the most classic example of true contemporary architecture and décor available in Ann Arbor. Gorgeous acre property in the heart of one of the area's most desired locations. The proportions are massive throughout with top-quality finishes everywhere. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR HILLS – Dramatic 4-bedroom, 3-bath, and 2 half-bath new construction. Complete and ready to go, this home is loaded with only the best in finish and workmanship. Highlights include cherry kitchen with granite and top-end appliances, two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite, and den with cherry built-ins. $1,200,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR HILLS – Breathtaking new construction in the heart of one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This home is incredible, loaded with quality features and amenities. Custom kitchen with vaulted ceiling, fireplace, granite, and professional grade appliances, two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite and more. $1,150,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR HILLS – Incredible opportunity. This stately 4-bedroom, 4½-bath brick colonial features every conceivable feature and amenity. Interior features include custom kitchen with granite counters and professional grade appliances, hardwood floor and custom trim, luxury master suite, and finished lower level. $1,150,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING –ANN ARBOR HILLS – New construction in the heart of Ann Arbor. Incredible 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial walking distance to UM campus. This is a wonderful home featuring cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, family room with fireplace, incredible master suite, and finished basement. Still time to make selections. $769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home features showcase-like finishes throughout. Wonderful floor plan includes two-story living room, den with oak paneled walls, cherry kitchen with marvelous eating area, family room with site-built cabinets, and first-floor master suite with marble bath. WOW! $679,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MATTHAI FARM – This custom-built ranch on a peaceful acre lot is a nature lover's paradise. Enjoy private surroundings, natural harmony, and extensive landscaping from one of four decks. The interior is in perfect condition and features an oversized great room with redwood ceiling and natural fireplace, luxurious master suite, and finished walkout basement. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NICHOLS ARBORETUM AREA – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial is just a short walk to the Arb and U-M Campus. Extensive renovation makes this home a wonderful find. Features include master bedroom addition, remodeled maple kitchen, oversized family room, ample hardwood floor, and gorgeous private lot. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING

STONEBRIDGE – Incredible 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home on peaceful cul-de-sac setting in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. This home is built to perfection including custom kitchen with granite counters and professional grade appliances, two-story great room, custom trim throughout, luxury master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. $569,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – YORK PLACE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on a peaceful acre lot backing to trees features 8-car garage space. All the bells and whistles are here including 2-story family room, maple kitchen with granite counters, ample hardwood floor, den, and dream master suite with oversized bath and closet. You will love it! $559,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath builder's model home now available in Legacy Heights. This 2005 Showcase of Homes entry is loaded with custom finishes and features. Cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, large family room, den with built-ins, oversized master suite, and designer décor throughout. $549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Builder's model home 4-bedroom, 4½-bath Huntington Woods. This home is incredible featuring extensive upgrades, professional decorating, and more. Amenities include gorgeous crown moldings, cherry kitchen, granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP – Stately, new 4-bedroom, 4-bath colonial on a private 6-acre parcel just minutes to Ann Arbor, St. Joe's, and freeways. This home is loaded with quality features including gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, ample hardwood floors, family room with vaulted ceiling, and luxury master suite. $450,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This well appointed 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs features wonderful updates and is in perfect, move-in condition. Features include ample hardwood floors, great room with fireplace and beautiful windows, kitchen with granite counters, luxury first-floor master suite, and significant, mature landscaping. $439,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – WEBSTER TOWNSHIP – This stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a quiet country cul-de-sac is just perfect. Gorgeous lot with extensive landscaping and oversized patio. Interior is highlighted by the two-story family room, cherry kitchen, back stair, and luxurious master suite. Dexter Schools. $439,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – Enjoy stunning Huron River views from this completely remodeled 3-bedroom, 2-bath cape cod. Perched high above the river this home features a gorgeous living room, remodeled kitchen, ample hardwood floor, and luxury master suite with wall of glass to the Huron River. You will love it! $434,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – Are you looking for the perfect country retreat? This is it. Enjoy the rolling vistas from the rock-solid, all-brick ranch on 10 pastoral acres just outside of town. This home has the perfect set-up with two pole barns, fenced horse pasture, and in-ground pool. Interior is sharp with great room and finished walkout basement. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Super sharp 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a private lot in one of the area's best neighborhoods. This home is perfect featuring large kitchen with hardwood floor and 9-ft. ceilings, open family room, spacious master suite, and in move-in condition. You will love this home! $388,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TECUMSEH – Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 3-bath 1800s farmhouse on 15 pastoral acres 10 minutes south of downtown Saline. Featuring heated barn perfect for car storage. Interior has best of old and new with cherry kitchen and Corian counters, hardwood floors, oversized moldings, family room, and luxury master suite. $379,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – BRIDGEFIELD ESTATES – This is one of the finest homes you will find. Custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to trees. Interior is upgraded in everyway including gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, granite counters, and stainless steel professional grade appliances, two-story great room, and luxury master suite with sitting room. $379,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Perfect 4-unit income property in downtown Saline. Are you looking to get into rental property? This is the perfect property. Three one-bedroom apartments and an efficiency. All separate utilities, lots of updates, and stable rental history. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – MAPLE CREEK – This very sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial in Pittsfield Twp. sits on a gorgeous almost acre lot. Interior spaces feature cherry kitchen with oak hardwood floor, open family room with fireplace and vaulted ceiling, and nice master suite with walk-in closet. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LINCOLN SCHOOLS – This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath, two-story is one of the only true custom built homes in Greene Farms. Enjoy wonderful features and amenities throughout including extensive landscaping, oversized deck, tasteful décor, kitchen with maple cabinets, and luxury master suite with oversized walk-in closet. Stunning! $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – This brand new 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch on a peaceful 2-acre parcel is just wonderful. This open floor plan features a large kitchen with maple cabinets and hardwood floors, large great room, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $239,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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NEW LISTING – DEXTER SCHOOLS – Stunning 5-bedroom, 4½-bath 2006 Showcase of Homes entry in Mystic Ridge by Charlestown Building Company. This home features only the best including custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, extensive Brazilian cherry floors, custom trim, two-story great room with stone fireplace, and finished walkout basement. $995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – TRAVIS POINTE – Located on the 2nd green at TPCC, this custom built home by Holly Development is perfect in every way. Every aspect of this home is upgraded including cherry paneled den with fireplace, two-story living room, cherry kitchen with granite counters, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished lower level. $879,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

POLO FIELDS – This is one of the finest homes you will ever see! Top-quality, custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac with panoramic golf course views. Interior is special featuring ample hardwood floors, cherry kitchen with granite counters, oversized first-floor master suite, two-story living room, and finished walkout basement with theater. Wow! $839,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BURNS PARK – Complete renovation inside and out awaits you at this striking 5-bedroom, 3-bath home. Extensive upgrades throughout including custom maple kitchen with granite counters, slate floors in many rooms, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling and modern bath, and great flex-use third floor. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built, builder's home on a peaceful acre lot. This 3-year-old home has all the bells and whistles. Inviting brick and stone interior, two-story great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LOHR LAKE VILLAGE – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home is one of the finest homes you will find. The lot is just spectacular with panoramic water views, mature trees, and gorgeous landscaping. Interior is a showplace featuring maple kitchen with granite, great room with stone fireplace, finished walkout with rec room bar, and more. $579,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3-bath timber frame style home set on 12 gorgeous, private acres bordering a nature conservatory. Incredible feel with exposed beam construction, upgrades galore, custom kitchen with granite counters, luxury master bedroom, and separate suite with full kitchen. $579,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Enjoy near perfection in this custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Interior is gorgeous featuring large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $579,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK MEADOWS – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home is just perfect. Incredible setting with oversized yard, extensive landscaping, and large patio. Interior is out of a magazine. Cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with wall of glass to backyard, and luxurious master suite. You will love it. $519,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING –LOHR LAKE VILLAGE - This very special 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests on a gorgeous lot overlooking the ponds. Enjoy wonderful views from the oversized deck. Interior is perfect featuring two-story great room with custom fireplace, large kitchen, den, luxurious first-floor master suite, and finished lower level. Saline Schools. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HUNTINGTON WOODS – Spectacular 4-bedroom, 3½-bath new construction by Bayberry in Saline's most beautiful new sub. This home includes 3-car garage, walkout basement, cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, and luxury master suite with sitting area and luxury bath. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich 476-7100.**

SALINE – This 4-bedroom, 4½-bath Bayberry home in the Arboretum is an incredible value. Many quality features and amenities including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, oversized two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished basement with viewout windows. $460,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SANDPIPER COVE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial rests on a peaceful acre lot in the highly desired Saline community. Enjoy the many luxurious features including oversized maple kitchen with ample cabinets, family room with built-ins, and large master suite with dream bath. You will love it! $434,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAKE FOREST – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath former builder's model home is just perfect! Incredible features inside and out including extensive mature landscaping, large deck, and patio. Interior is highlighted by ample hardwood flooring, maple kitchen with granite counters, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISING – YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Looking for a peaceful country retreat just minutes to I-94? Oversized ranch on almost 4 acres of wooded land. This home featuring wonderful living areas and many extra multi-use spaces perfect for home office, hobbies, etc. Extensive updates including granite kitchen, luxury master bath, and wine room. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORKSHIRE HILLS – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial rests on a peaceful acre lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. This home is loaded with all the features you've been hoping for and is an incredible value. Features include granite kitchen counter tops, large family room, luxury master suite, and finished walk-out basement. $407,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAKE FOREST HIGHLANDS – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home rests on one of the best lots to be found. Enjoy the quiet cul-de-sac location with expansive backyard, deck, patio, and extensive landscaping. Interior is move-in perfect featuring great room with vaulted ceiling, oversized kitchen with hardwood floor, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SAGINAW HILLS – Drastically reduced for quick sale, an incredible opportunity and value to the buyer. Striking 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a gorgeous 2.8 acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Oversized lot just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor. Unique design perfect for those with a little flair. $309,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MILAN – This is one of the nicest homes you will find. Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in York Township. The list is long: cherry kitchen, remodeled baths, perfect décor, finished walkout basement, huge deck and patio. WOW! $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – HOMETOWNE VILLAGE – This custom built 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs is in perfect move-in condition. Gorgeous setting, very pretty pond view. Interior is dramatic with 10-ft. first-floor ceilings, large kitchen, great room with built-in entertainment center, luxury master suite, and walk-out basement. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – This is the perfect 3-bedroom starter ranch on the west side of town. Everything is updated in this super sharp home. Extensive hardwood floors, remodeled master suite and kitchen, finished basement, 2½-car garage, and fenced backyard. $219,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

AUGUSTA TWP – Rock-solid 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch on a treed acre lot just minutes to US-23. This home has had an extreme makeover: new items in the past 5 years include roof, siding, carpet, paint, and windows. Great floor plan features family room with fireplace, large kitchen, and good sized bedrooms. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 1½-bath brick colonial, walking distance to EMU. This home is as cute as it gets and in move-in condition. Features include spacious living room with hardwood floors, coved ceiling and fireplace, formal dining room, large sun room, spacious bedrooms, and private backyard. $174,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch on a quiet cul-de-sac street has been completely redone inside and out. Wonderful features including 2½-car garage, fenced yard, new kitchen with maple cabinets, hardwood floors, sharp décor, and full basement. $174,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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Remarkable Home – No step access to gorgeous lower level offering living room, bedroom, full bath, and lovely kitchen. Main floor features new kitchen, granite counters, huge living room. Three large bedrooms on acre lot. $368,000. #2615626

Gail Sinelli, 734-426-8060
www.RealEstateOne.com/gsinelli

Prime Location near Pfizer, Toyota, Domino's Farms. Elegant condo features remodeled kitchen with cherry cabinets, hardwood floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, full basement with 2 large windows, garage. Large deck. $244,900. #2613948

Linda Tenza, 734-276-0200
www.LindaTenza.com

Looking For A Place In The Country? 7+ acres. 1977 custom-built Cape Cod, large pole barn, workshop. Study, family room with fireplace. 2,578 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2.1 baths, first-floor master. 1,260 sq. ft. finished basement. $600,000. #2613691

DeFord Team, 734-646-1666 / 645-3060
www.DeFordTeam.com

What A Beautiful Ranch in Waterways sub located between Ann Arbor and Saline. 2,074 sq. ft. of lovely living area on main floor, 1,500 sq. ft. finished space in finished basement. Fantastic buy at $398,000. #2601944

Meredith Grupe, 734-649-4646
mgrupe@comcast.net

Secluded Tree Lined Drive — Leads you to your cozy central Ann Arbor home. Large fenced back yard with deck and lots of trees!! Three bedrooms and 2 baths with 2.5-car garage! Close to U of M and buses. $217,500. #2617109

Michael Mazur, 734-678-5020
www.MMazur.com

Call It Home Today! A superior starter home in Geddes Ridge sub. Enjoy all the seasons in this 3-bedroom home featuring fireplace, multi-tier deck with enclosed patio, and a finished basement with bar. Great commute location! $166,900. #2614838

Michael Mazur, 734-678-5020
www.MMazur.com

Rediscover "The Village"! – One-bedroom co-op with updates galore!! New appliances, fresh paint, hardwood floors and lovely gardens. $63,500. #2613382

Michael Mazur, 734- 678-5020
www.MMazur.com

Stunning Lake Views – from your deck, dining room and living room in this spacious 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo! All-sports lake – dock and hoist included! Easy commute location too! $120,000. #2613067

Michael Mazur, 734-678-5020
www.MMazur.com

Be The Third Owner of this all brick ranch on an acre with mature trees, new windows, remodeled powder room, hardwood floors, and full basement. $260,000. #2613816

Tonya Ireland, 734-395-1805
Irelandrealestate@msn.com

A Very Desirable and Well-Maintained 3-bedroom bi-level home in Country Creek Estates. Saline schools and Twp. taxes. Master suite with garden tub. Great room with vaulted ceiling. Open floor plan with skylights, patio with privacy fence. $269,000. #2611570

Anina Myint, 734-323-7136
AninaMyint@SBCGlobal.net

Great location! Beautiful 2-story, 4-bedroom, with 2 1/2-baths in Saline, Pittsfield Twp. taxes. Home offers 9' cathedral ceilings with 2-sided fieldstone fireplace in family room and study. Walkout lower level and stone patio. $315,000 #2605514

Anina Myint, 734-323-7136
AninaMyint@SBCGlobal.net

A Rare Find! Beautifully renovated interior of this 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath, 2-story within walking distance of downtown Saline. Featuring hickory floors, new custom lighting, appliances and cabinets, new baths with tile, and tastefully unique. $255,000. (DA2602347)

The Pearsall Team, 734-216-2855
www.SpecializingInResults.com

Great Starter....Great Deal! – 1,232 sq. ft., 3-bedroom, 2-bath, 2-car garage. $159,000. Freshly painted, new carpet, new kitchen and foyer flooring. Quick to the expressways. Call to hear more! #2611978

Rex Soper, 734-678-4288
www.RealEstateRexOnline.com

3,100 sq. ft. New England Colonial on 20 acres! Call this 4-bedroom, 4-bath, 4-car garage with swimming pool "HOME". Rural setting with 15 acres of woods...hunt or just enjoy nature! $574,900. #2614848

Rex Soper, 734-678-4288
www.RealEstateRexOnline.com

Location, Location, Location!! Walk to restaurants, grocery, book stores and more from this 4-bedroom home. Pamper yourself in the luxury master bath. Full daylight basement ready to finish. $390,000. #2600520

Sharon Beal, 734-395-7351
sharonjbeal@comcast.net

Great Home! Great Buy. Beautiful colonial in Lansdowne neighborhood. Four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, family room, updated kitchen with granite counters, finished basement with 2nd kitchen. Great master bedroom and bath. $349,900. #2617011

Tammy Stone, 734-649-4443
www.TammyStone.com

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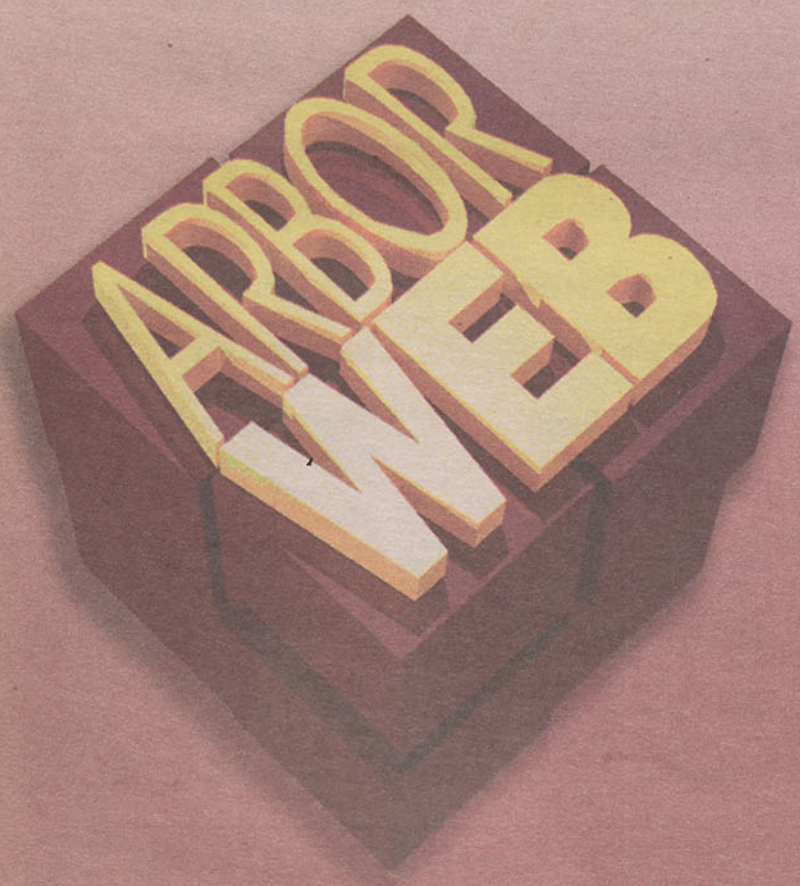

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i spy

by Sally Bjork

This house was once on Wall Street in Lower Town.

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"The December I Spy, I discovered after some digging, is the original Bethel AME Church at 632 North Fourth Avenue," wrote faithful entrant Tom Jameson. When the African Methodist Episcopal congregation built the church in the 1890s, the cornerstone was laid by bishop Henry McNeal Turner; according to Marjorie Reade and Susan Wineberg in *Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor, Michigan,* Turner "served President Lincoln as the first black chaplain in the United States Army." New Grace Apostolic Temple purchased the building after Bethel AME built a new church on what is now John A. Woods Drive in the 1970s; when New Grace in turn moved to a new church on Packard in 1999, neighbors Michael Bielby and Lisa Profera purchased the Fourth Avenue building. The work they did transforming the building into four apartments while preserving the exterior won them a 2003 Historic District Commission Adaptive Reuse Award.

Tom Jameson's digging paid off, too. As the only entrant to identify the building correctly, he will receive a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *History of Ann Arbor.*

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

Do your ears hang low?
Do they wobble to and fro?
Can you tie them in a knot?
Can you tie them in a bow?
Can you sling them over your shoulder
Like a Continental soldier?
Do your ears hang low?

That's the complete lyric to the song referred to in last month's Fake Ad for Ontario Cosmetic Surgery Associates (p. 100), offering ear reduction surgery. "When I showed the ad to my girlfriend, she started singing the song," wrote Paul Schwarzhoff of Dearborn. "I had not heard the song before. Very amusing."

Amusing, sure, but if you believe numerous postings on the Internet—and, at this point, what other choice do we have?—the song is also a sanitized version of what was once a rather rude military ditty. Community standards prevent us from going into detail here, but suffice it to say that in the original version it would have taken a far more acrobatic heave, as well as a loosening of his breeches, for a Continental soldier to sling the mentioned body part over his shoulder. We are shocked. Shocked.

DO YOUR EARS HANG low?
DO THEY WOBBLE TO AND FRO?
You've heard the rest. It's a well-know fact that as people age, their ears and nose continue to grow after the rest of their body has stopped.
Outpatient ear reduction surgery (otoplasty), government approved in Canada for years, is now available to Americans. Smaller ears can give you a more vibrant appearance that will make you look years younger.
before
after
Questions? Call us.
We're all ears.
But you don't have to be.
OCSA
Ontario Cosmetic Surgery Associates
(800) 726-7932

Colleen Serafin of Ann Arbor won our random drawing among ninety-three correct entries. She's taking her gift certificate to Zingerman's.

To enter this month's contest, identify the January Fake Ad by name and page number, and let us know at the address below. Look for the name of the Observer's website, *arborweb,* as your clue to the ad's fakeness; the phone number in December's Fake Ad, 726–7932, can be dialed RBO–RWEB. The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–4950. *E-mail:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Wednesday, January 10, will be eligible for the January drawings.

Fourth Ave Sleep Shop

Tempur-Pedic Mattresses are Just Right.

Goldilocks agrees, this mattress reduces night-time tossing and turning by an average of 80%.

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Events at a Glance

A capsule guide to selected major events in January. See p. 57 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings begin on p. 57.

Classical & Religious Music

- Toledo Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 12
- Guitarist and sitarist Robert Spalding Newcomb, Jan. 12
- Takacs Quartet, Jan. 12
- U-M Collage Concert, Jan. 20
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 20
- Quorum Chamber Arts Collective, Jan. 23
- Out Loud Chorus, Jan. 26 & 27
- Kerrytown Concert House "Wine, Women, & Song," Jan. 26 & 27
- Ann Arbor Concert Band, Jan. 28
- U-M Michigan Chamber Players, Jan. 28
- Classical guitarist John Wunsch, Jan. 28

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Josh Brown Quartet (jazz), Jan. 5
- Yellow Room Gang (singer-songwriters), Jan. 5
- Shout Sister Shout (vintage jazz), Jan. 6
- The Dirty Americans (rock 'n' roll), Jan. 6
- Jill Jack (folk-rock), Jan. 7
- Hoodang (alt-country), Jan. 9
- Ferron (singer-songwriter), Jan. 11
- Madcat & Kane (blues & jazz), Jan. 12
- The Ragbirds (country-rock), Jan. 15
- Juggernaut Jug Band (jazz & blues), Jan. 19
- Urban Transport (jazz), Jan. 19
- Eldar (jazz), Jan. 19
- Peter Mulvey (singer-songwriter), Jan. 20
- Harper (blues-rock), Jan. 20
- Neil Woodward (singer-songwriter), Jan. 21
- Leon Redbone (vintage blues & pop), Jan. 22
- Nervous but Excited (singer-songwriters), Jan. 23
- Kasim Sulton (singer-songwriter), Jan. 24
- Electric Six (rock), Jan. 27

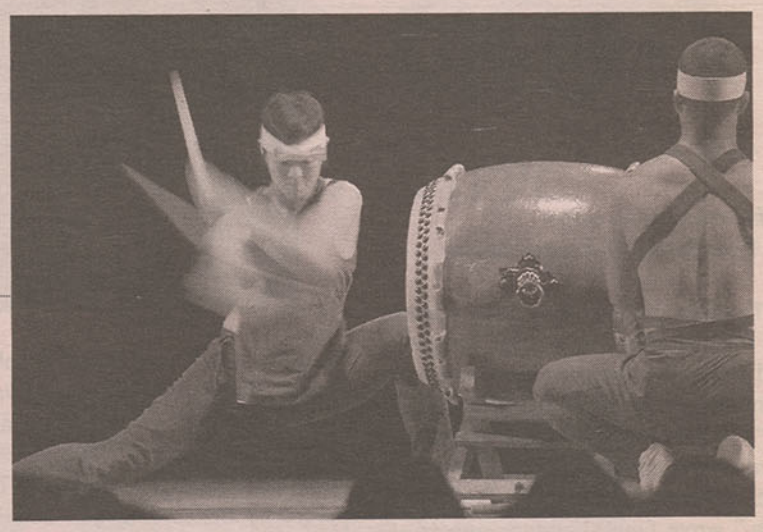
Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Escanaba in Love* (Purple Rose Theater), Jan. 3–7, 10–14, & 17–20
- *La Tragedie de Carmen* (U-M Opera Workshop), Jan. 11, 12, & 14
- *Sweet Charity* (Ann Arbor Civic Theater), Jan. 11–14
- Bright Sheng's *Silver River,* Jan. 12 & 13
- *Language Lessons* (Performance Network), Jan. 18–21 & 25–28
- *Arcs and Orbits* (EMU Dance Department), Jan. 19–21
- *The Tempest* (EMU Theater Department), Jan. 25–27

Lectures & Readings

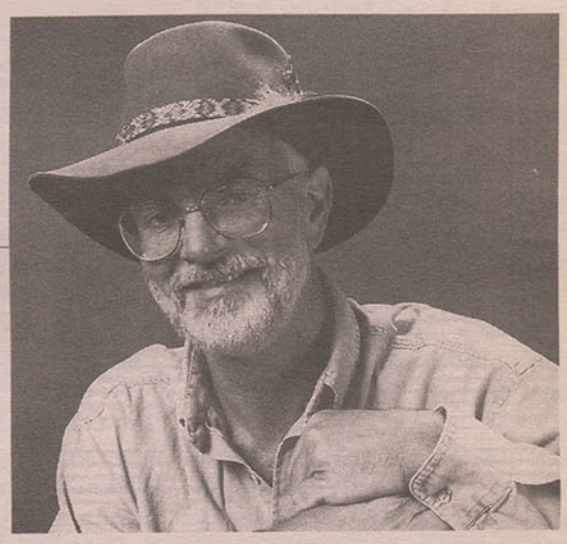
- Novelist Laura Kasischke, Jan. 16
- Poet Vievee Francis, Jan. 17
- Poet Sean Norton and novelist Patrick O'Keeffe, Jan. 18
- Poet Marie Howe, Jan. 22
- Poet & translator Clayton Eshleman, Jan. 23 & 25
- Social critic David Griffith, Jan. 24
- Fiction writers Rattawut Lapcharoensap and Elwood Reid, Jan. 25
- Poet Catherine Wagner, Jan. 25
- Nonfiction writer Tracy Kidder, Jan. 25
- Poet Linda Pastan, Jan. 30
- Poet Barbara Ras, Jan. 30
- Poet Kevin Young, Jan. 31
- Poet Christine Hume and novelist Jeff Parker, Jan. 31

Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble



Ember Swift

Bill Staines



This year's Folk Festival features the Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble performing a modernized version of Japanese folk drumming, Toronto singer-songwriter Ember Swift, and veteran singer-songwriter Bill Staines.

Conferences & Forums

- U-M MLK Symposium with former NAACP president Kweisi Mfume & more, Jan. 8–12, 15–20, 22, 24, 25, & 31

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- David Bromberg & the Angel Band (folkie), Jan. 19
- Gemini (folk), Jan. 20
- The Chieftains (Irish), Jan. 21
- Yang Wei (Chinese), Jan. 24
- Ann Arbor Folk Festival with Rufus Wainwright, John Prine, & many others, Jan. 26 & 27

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Second Baptist Church Unity March, Jan. 14
- Stilyagi Air Corps "Moonbase ConFusion" science fiction convention, Jan. 19–21
- Saline Area Historical Society Antiques Show, Jan. 19 & 20
- Ann Arbor Record & CD Show, Jan. 21
- Saline Future Farmers Farm Toy Show, Jan. 27

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Owl's Winter* (Wild Swan Theater), Jan. 18–20
- Ann Arbor Symphony Family Concert, Jan. 21
- *Speak for Yourself* (Mosaic Youth Theater of Detroit), Jan. 27

Comedy & Performance Art

- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam Bad Poetry Night, Jan. 2
- Comic Chrissy Burns, Jan. 4–6
- Comic Ally Ball, Jan. 11–13
- Comic Tim O'Rourke, Jan. 18–20
- Performance artist Sekou Sundiata, Jan. 20
- Comic Nick Gaza, Jan. 25–27
- Comic George Carlin, Jan. 27

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Zingerman's Roadhouse "African American Foodways" feast, Jan. 16

A&D

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12.01 - 1.31

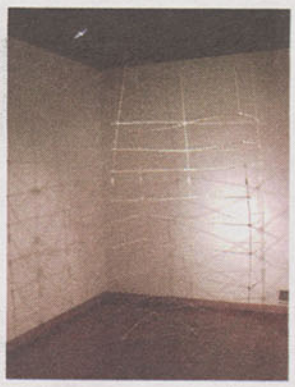
EXHIBITION
SMOKE

An installation including sculpture and rice paper paintings by A&D visiting artist, Tuan Tran, inspired by this poem: "It is said that the soul is bright/It is said that the soul is invisible because it is decent/ As for me, it is a wisp of smoke and it is strolling..."

FIRST & SECOND FLOOR WEST HALL
Art & Archecture building, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd

1.05 - 2.18

EXHIBITION
SHIFTING BOUNDARIES



An exhibition of installation work by A&D adjunct lecturer Francesc Burgos, Lynda Cole, and Traven Pelletier. There will be a presentation by the artists in conjunction with the exhibition on January 8th at the Downtown branch of the Ann Arbor Library

[Reception January 5, 6-8pm] **ANN ARBOR ART CENTER**
117 West Liberty Street, Ann Arbor

1.12 - 2.09

EXHIBITION
ICEBLINK

"An installation of sculpture and sound by Thea Eck, A&D graduate student, re-imagining events and artifacts from the 1845 John Franklin Expedition searching for the Northwest Passage.

[Opening Reception January 12 6-8pm] **WARREN ROBBINS GALLERY**
2000 Bonisteel Blvd., 2nd Floor

1.12 - 2.09

EXHIBITION
UNLEASHED

Working in partnership with the Humane Society of Huron Valley, A&D Associate Professor Holly Hughes and her students address animal rights, and explore the ways animal imagery operates in the larger social landscape.

[Opening Reception January 12 6-9pm] **JEAN PAUL SLUSSER GALLERY**
2000 Bonisteel Blvd

1.12 - 2.09

EXHIBITION
DRAWN TOGETHER

A creative collaboration between fourth graders at Greenfield Union Elementary School in Detroit and art and design students at the University of Michigan.

[Opening Reception January 12 6-9pm] **JEAN PAUL SLUSSER GALLERY**
2000 Bonisteel Blvd

1.12 - 2.09

EXHIBITION
IF OTHER, PLEASE EXPLAIN...

This juried exhibition explores notions of identity, as well as such issues as national ID cards, affirmative action, identity theft, privacy, immigration and the census.

[Opening Reception January 12 6-9pm] **WORK**
306 S. State

1.18

PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISITORS SERIES
PRESENTATION: ANNE WILSON "LIMINAL NETWORK"

Anne Wilson's sculpture, drawings, videos, and installations evolve where social and political ideas encounter the processes of handwork and industry. Her work has been shown at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. **Co-sponsored by the Ann Arbor Art Center and by River Gallery**

[Presentation 5:10pm] **MICHIGAN THEATRE**
603 E. Liberty

1.20 - 2.10

EXHIBITION
LARRY CRESSMAN: RECENT WORKS

A solo exhibition of recent installation work by A&D Associate Professor Larry Cressman

ELISE MUNRO GALLERY
Albion College, 611 East Porter Street, Albion, Michigan

1.25

PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISITORS SERIES
PRESENTATION JANIE PAUL: "CREATING PLACE, CREATING RESISTANCE"

Janie Paul works with inner city school children and incarcerated men, women and teenagers.Her background as a painter has informed this work, and in turn, the courage, resilience and inventiveness of the people in these sites of resistance have influenced her studio practice.

[Presentation 5:10pm]

1.29

PUBLIC FORUM
ANIMAL RIGHTS vs ANIMAL WELFARE

Do animals have rights? And, if so, how do we mediate their rights when they collide with the rights of humans? Presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Unleashed*, and sponsored by the School of Art & Design course, *Where the Wild Things Aren't*, this moderated discussion brings together representatives from various organizations, such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and the American Kennel Club, to examine different perspectives on animal rights and animal welfare. **Presented in partnership with the Huron Valley Humane Society.**

[Forum 6:00pm] **JEAN PAUL SLUSSER GALLERY**
2000 Bonisteel Blvd

MICHIGAN RADIO

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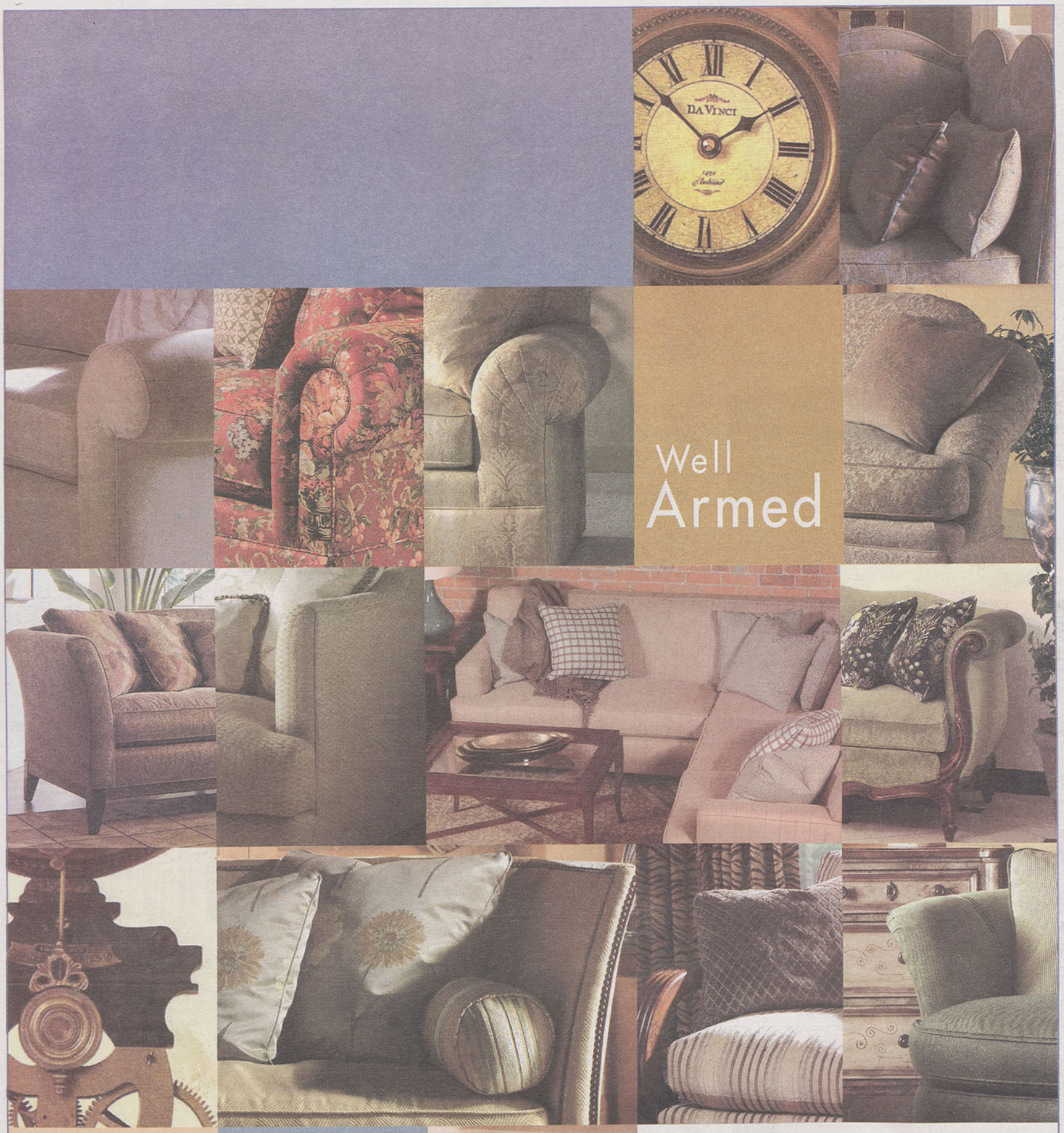
Sign language interpreter provided upon advance request for lectures. University of Michigan, School of Art & Design, Art & Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2069. Most events are free and open to the public. For more information, telephone 734.763.1265 or email: katewest@umich.edu http://www.art-design.umich.edu



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